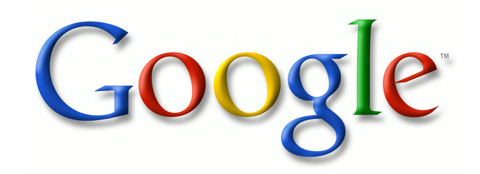
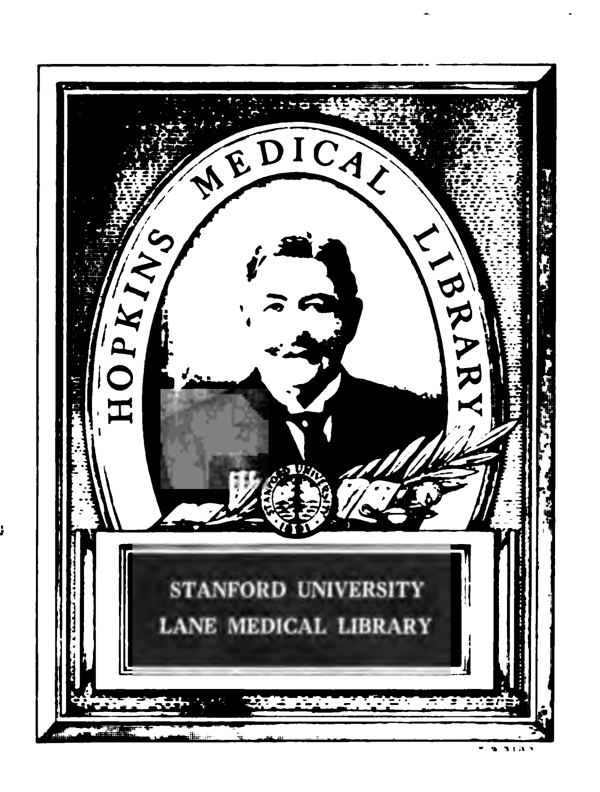



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ECLECTIC

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DESIGNED FOR

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L. REUBEN, M. D., & L. C. DOLLEY, M. D.,

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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Physical Force: An Element of Usefulness and Success.

Extract from an Introductory Lecture before the Class of C. M. College, November 3, 1851.

BY PROF. L. REUBEN.

Physical Force is a necessary pre-requisite to usefulness and success, in any profession. A certain amount of this force is indispensable in every business in which men engage, whether that business be made up, in itself, of physical or mental labor. That it requires a given amount of physical force to lift a bushel of grain, run over a mile of ground, or twist a two years' sapling, all will admit. But these arè only the more obvious uses, the grosser applications of that mysterious principle pervading our ćorporeal forms, and which I have denominated *physical force.*

This principle, whether, we have ever perceived it or not, has far other uses. It as really requires a definite amount of *Physical Force* to obtain a clear view of a principle, to fix a fact imperishably in the memory, to commit a good lesson, to see straight through the symptoms of a disease to the true condition of the organs, to see clearly the remedy indicated for a malady, to infuse courage into the patient and his friends—yes, it just as really requires a definite amount of *Physical Force* to make a friend in conversation, to assert your own intrinsic worth, and to get men to acknowledge it, to get your reasons admitted for truth, even if they be true, or to be enabled to be a peaceable and respected

member of your own family, community and nation—to deny yourself and exercise a saving self-control when indulgence of any appetite would be prejudicial, or to obtain the good things of this world, when the possession of them is your honest due, and the enjoyment of them salutary in itself, just as really, I say, as it requires a fixed *quantum* of the same force to lift the load, run the mile, or twist the stout sapling? Do you want proof? Bodies whose physical force has departed—dead men, I mean—see no principles, acquire no facts, get no lessons, make no diagnoses, heal no diseases, strengthen no weak hearts, gain no friends, secure no standing, conquer by no reasons, maintain no relations, control not themselves, secure no delights! And just in proportion as *diseases*, *excesses*, or *depressing cares* have brought any living man more or less near to the condition of a dead man, just in that proportion does he lack the *force* by which to act upon and sway the circumstances around him to his ends; just in that proportion does he fail to secure all the ends of his existence!

Go to the farm yard, and see how the domestic animals manage these matters. Some day a new comer is added to the herd of cattle. Now the age of the stranger will make some difference in the reception that follows, but far more the strength, and the bearing which depends directly on the strength. No matter how intelligent young "Bright," or "Lily," may be, no matter how adorned with the graces of demeanor and personal appearance that appertain to the bovine race, if he or she be puny, lank, and feeble looking, (as if, like your humble servant, the speaker of the hour, troubled with *dyspepsia*, or as if afflicted with the "*dumps*," or "nervousness," or feeling "old,") and if, consequently, as is most likely, the head drops, and the whole demeanor is spiritless, the fate of the new comer is at once sealed. Every noble lord and thrifty matron of the herd, will toss at, or chase, or gore the poor stranger, who must skulk away in the fence corner, his real capabilities all unknown, and his virtues all unrewarded. But wait a few months. Better pasture, or the husbanding of its own powers, may improve the new comer, add muscle to the limbs, plumpness to the form, and spirit and determination to the air. Now the scene changes. One by one of the old herd is dared to a trial of strength, and probably mastered, and the former outcast asserts, and is admitted to, a place among the peers of the little realm. "Better late than never," says the good old adage, but a plump hide, a well-fed courage, and the consequent "high head," would have secured the front rank at the first, and saved all the mortification and pain of pupilage!

The application of the illustration I have given, to human affairs and human successes and failures, is so obvious and direct, that I leave each to make it for himself. I do not mean to say that our *physical force* is exerted in precisely *the same way* to lift the load, on the one hand, and on the other, to make a friend or assert our proper place in society. How this principle operates to secure social and moral results, I believe has not been satisfactorily explained. But the fact is unanswerable. There is a sort of *magnetic influence* diffused through the very air about one whose blood is healthy and

plentiful, muscles firm and elastic, and nerves alive with electric fire —an influence that controls men and circumstances about one with the force of a natural law. Nor do I mean to say that physical force and moral force are one, or that there may not be some circumstances in which moral force is triumphant, while the physical force is weak. What I mean to assert is, that the *physical force* is a powerful controlling influence among men, (and women, too,) in all the every day transactions of life; and that, whatever other powers, gifts or graces a man or woman may possess, a *due amount*, for each sex, of this physical force, seems to be indispensably necessary to bring these other qualities forward in their true light, to secure their true share of attention on the part of others, and to secure to the individual his or her due share of honor and profit, as a consequence of their possession.

With us Americans, there are too many of the fidgety class, who constantly waste their physical energies in trifling enterprises. We fidget and fret away the strength with which more patient and plodding Germany piles up her tomes of philosophy, and urges her way to the deepest recesses of physiological and chemical science.

Now if there is any class of men to whom the perfection of this physical force is desirable, it is the physician. His labors are so unequal, so likely to be incessant and excessive at particular times, so liable to keep him in active exertion and thought during the hours of night, while other bodies and brains are quietly being refitted for the work of another day, that he needs a large reservoir full of strength, so to speak, always stored away in his physical system, and on which he can fall back and be sustained in times when constant effort leaves nature no time to make up the loss by exertion from day to day. The mischiefs that are brewing in other men's blood pay no respect to the vitality stored up in his own. He must go when the call comes, and that is the work of a thousand accidents. But more—it almost seems as if he had to keep a supply of courage and spirit for others, and to impart of his own force to the feeble and fainting about him. In a season of cholera, for instance, what drafts are made upon the physical and mental stamina of the practitioner!—and often in his ministrations he may have literal cause to feel, as did the Great Physician of old, "that virtue has gone out of him," to support the sinking and revivify the dying!

But on what conditions are this physical force to be secured? Three words contain a reply to this question: A *healthy body, unexhausted!* The body must be *healthy*; its natural functions will then generate vast supplies of force. But secondly, the body must be *unexhausted;* that is, its natural quantum of force must not be wasted by needless exertions in other directions, especially not by excesses of any kind, nor by anxiety and depression of mind, which, in some mysterious way, chill and put out the life-force, as a cold, damp air extinguishes fire. Thus we see that Health, Temperance, (temperance of all pleasures and gratifications,) and Cheerfulness, are the *true means* to all the ends worth entertaining as such, in life. The importance of these three as means to usefulness, success, and hap-

piness, is by all men sadly too much overlooked. It is every man's duty to himself—every man's duty to those dependent on him—every man's duty to the world, to be healthy, temperate and cheerful.—And certainly, if the duty, it is the highest, and thrice blessed privilege of those who may, to be so. Those who have already lost health or self-control, or cheerfulness to an irreparable degree, are, in reality, objects for your pity. They must be absolved from the duties I have named, as they have likewise forfeited the privileges. But they have duties, nevertheless, to perform, and these are, to secure health, and exercise self-control and cheerfulness to the extent of their broken ability, and to warn those who yet retain these blessings, of the infinite folly they commit when they place their possession of them in jeopardy, through imprudence, or the solicitings of passion.

Health, a normal body, and complete in all the essentials, is a *sine qua non* to the perfection of physical and mental power. Look at the majestic ship, with all its parts complete, and all its tackling in order. How it breasts the waves and mocks at the storm, truly "like a thing of life." But take away one pulley, one spike, or one rope—that may be an essential part, and the gallant ship succumbs to the next onset of the tempest. So with the human frame. In soundness, how complete, how nöble its working! But disease steals a pulley here, loosens a spike there, or destroys the cordage elsewhere, and soon powerlessness takes the place of might, and the perfect machine is a wreck.

I would not have you forget this thought: *power cannot gather itself together and manifest itself in vacancy*; it must have a body, a machinery to concentrate upon and to act through. A man's hand is *here*; power may act through that; but take that away, and there is no more power until some other medium takes its place. *Power must have a material substratum.* Now take away essential parts of the body by accident, or destroy their use by disease, and at once power or force diminishes—perhaps ceases entirely. Take away one atom, and if that atom be essential to the constitution or connections of a vital organ, the whole system is proportionably robbed of its energy. And hence it is, undoubtedly, in many instances, that a trifling cause, or an undiscoverable lesion, results in one of those inexplicable cases of sudden death, which would formerly have been set down as a "dispensation of Providence." We thus see how small injuries may interfere with the processes of life, and the acknowledgment must follow, I think, that I have not set too high an estimate upon the highest possible bodily health as a pre-requisite to all efficient action—as a condition of *force* and as a means of usefulness.

I have spoken of a "full-fed courage," and of a "reservoir of force" within the system. But let no one mistake these expressions, and infer that it is only necessary to feed high in order to lay in stores of force—of physical and mental power. Such an interpretation would be but too gratifying to the morbid appetites of our day!—But put into the system more *material for generating force*—I mean

food—than it is capable of converting to its use, and you impose a direct tax on the force it has already laid up, to take care of the surplus. Moreover, you corrupt the *substratum*—the body—with crude, undigested, foreign materials, which unfit it to be a substratum, and so again diminish its force. The best way to *accumulate force*, is not by endeavoring to add to it by feeding, but by saving and keeping back a supply of what is already produced. We all live too fast, and that in a thousand ways. Society, we think, demands just so much of us. She is a cruel mother, indeed, in that case. But *why run ourselves to death*, when there is time enough before us, (if all we can manage to steal from eternity be enough!) and when he that takes the most time, has the most time left! And why *enjoy ourselves to death*, (and millions, besides the great Alexander and the wicked Tiberius have done it!) when it is far better to enjoy long than to enjoy fast, and vastly easier and cheaper into the bargain!—By husbanding his energies, Henry Jenkins lived to the age of 169 years, and was not transformed into a "grasshopper" at that, but died in possession of the posture, air, and faculties of a man. By the same course, no doubt, Methuselah attained the age of 969 years, and at that age it would seem that impertinence even must forbear to press the inquiry as to whether he were "bent double," or not.—On the opposite plan of feeding the vital energies, in order to accomplish much, and oftener in order to enjoy largely, the epicure has his toes ground off with gout, and his head rent with apoplexy, and topples into the grave at fifty. Or the lank, nervous man, laboring under the same delusion, works, studies and enjoys, till he shrivels to the thinnest shell of a man, and finally collapses, even under "low pressure," rendering up his spirit, as the poets say, "to thin air," which, one would think, should be precious little thickened by the addition!

In conclusion: The views, I have advanced, do not *identify the mind or soul of man with physical force*. They only declare that *physical force is necessarily expended during the production of every act, thought and feeling*. Nor would I convey the impression that this physical force on which I have laid so much stress, is always a means of good to its possessor and his fellows. By no means. Its fruits are good or evil according to the end contemplated in a given effort. And if, in teaching how to husband this power, I have taught some how to enhance their abilities to compass selfish ends, and to work evil, this is not the fault of my philosophy, but of the constitution of ill-disposed minds. God does not forbear to send the rain alike on the "just and the unjust," because the latter will make their prosperity a means of greater mischief to their fellow-men. But if *to know himself* is thus the opportunity of the dishonest, how much more is it the imperative duty of the honest and true man, and especially of him who has in hand the furtherance of any great and philanthropic work. Such are all, I hope who are assembled here to-day. And it becomes us, as minds devoted to progress in Medicine, and doubtless in many other things, to know the character of our weapons and how their *temper* may be best preserved for the hour when we

must ask of them to render us good service, whenever that may be. We have but *hands* and *brains* given us to work with, nothing more; but with the right and understanding use of these, we may new-fashion the age in which we live, and earn the benedictions of future time!

"New Method" of Reducing Dislocation of the Femur.

BY PROF. L. C. DOLLEY.

Permit me to call the further attention of the readers of the Electic Journal of Medicine, to the easy mode of reducing dislocations of the femur on the dorsum ilii, without the aid of pulleys, or other mechanical power. During the last half century, a considerable number of practitioners, both within and without the ranks of regularism, have practiced as far as their opportunities allowed, the reduction of the femur when dislocated upon the dorsum ilii, by placing the patient upon the floor, or a low table, flexing the leg upon the thigh, and carrying the thigh over the pelvis and the knee above the umbilicus, and following with abduction and rotation. This process is remarkably safe and efficient, speedy and philosophical, and strips this severe surgical operation of the formidableness and uncertainty which has, and must ever, attend the use of pulleys, twisted ropes, and other mechanical contrivances for extension and counter-extension, used heretofore in these cases. When the leg is flexed upon the thigh, and the thigh at an acute angle with the trunk, the principal muscles usually offering resistance, as the triceps adductor, tensor vaginæ femoris, &c., as well as the strong fascia enveloping the muscles of the thigh are in the same relaxed position they are in the fœtus in utero; and the limb is in the position most favorable for other muscles as the quadratus femoris, pyriformis, the gemini and gluteus minimus, with slight assistance from the hand of the operator to effect a reduction. It is very apparent also, that the resistance afforded by the thick edge of the acetabulum and cotyloid ligament in front, is much less when flexion and abduction is made in the manner described, than when extension is made obliquely inwards and forwards, as generally practiced.

In demonstrating this operation upon the dead subject, one is forcibly struck with the very slight resistance which it is apparent must be afforded by all of the muscles that have to be relaxed in the old mode of reduction—the very slight resistance in the fascia femoris, and the positive assistance rendered by the several muscles, as the quadratus, pyriformis, gluteus minimus, and the anterior portion of the capsular ligament. These latter muscles not only press the head of the femur forcibly towards the acetabulum, but serve to fix the trochanter major during abduction. From recent experiments upon the cadaver, I am led to believe that the anterior portion of the capsular ligament which remains whole, serves during abduction a very important part in the reduction by drawing the head and neck of the femur directly towards the cotyloid cavity.

The discovery of this process which works with so much exactness and beauty, has been recently claimed by W. W. Reid, M. D., of this city. An able essay explaining and recommending it, written by Dr. Reid, was read before the Monroe County Medical Society, in New York and afterwards published in the Buffalo, Boston and ble zeal in his investigations in this [illegible] evinced a commenda- him for calling the attention of the profession further towards this im- portant improvement in surgical practice; but that this mode of reduction is neither wonderfully novel, nor original with Dr. Reid as claimed by him, and many who have read his essay, is very apparent. This same process of reduction has been not only practiced and taught in various parts of our country for several years, but has been adopted by a few surgeons in Europe.

A method of reducing dislocations of the femur as well as many other bones without any extension whatever, has been practiced for more than half a century in New England, by a family of Sweet's. Their success in reducing dislocations by methods very simple and easy without the aid of mechanical force or assistants, gained for them a wide spread notoriety. These men were destitute of anatomical and other scientific knowledge, and their practice, like that of Priessnitz, and many other contributors to the healing art, was grossly empirical. By reference to Dr. W. Beach's Treatise on Surgical Diseases, (American Practice, vol. II, p. 124.) published in 1833, it will be seen that to Dr. Beach is probably due the credit of reclaiming this method of reducing dislocations of the femur "from the chaos of blundering empiricism," and bringing it "under the empire of the laws of science." In speaking of this "novel" method, he says: "Instead of its being performed by *extension and counter-extension*, it is done by a *compound movement*. The patient must be placed upon a table, upon the floor or a bed, upon his back; then the practitioner seizes the dislocated leg, and flexes or bends it a little, taking hold principally of the knee with one hand, and the ankle with the other. *After having very much flexed the leg upon the thigh*, for the purpose of converting the leg into a lever, he carries it a little outward; in the next place the thigh is to be gradually abducted; and, lastly, *the operator freely pushes the leg upwards, upon the pelvis, by the knee, towards the face*, inclining the leg a little to the opposite side as represented in the annexed plate." With these and other explicit directions almost identical with those of Dr. Reid, a wood cut was inserted illustrating the mode of procedure. Remember that Dr. Beach published this as early as 1833.

It seems that Dr. Nathan Smith, of New England, practiced and taught to his pupils many years since, a method of reducing dislocations of the femur, essentially the same without perhaps understanding fully its philosophy. More recently, Samuel A. Cartwright, M. D., of New Orleans, has made highly interesting investigations in the same direction. Full and explicit accounts of his investigations are published in the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal, in May, 1844, eleven years subsequent to Dr. Beach's publication.

Dr. Fischer, of Cologne, published in 1849, in Caspar's Wochenschrift, No. 1, an account of his mode of reducing dislocation of the femur, and "which consists in flexing the femur to an acute angle with the trunk, and impressing upon it a gentle rotary movement while in a state of abduction, if dislocated, on to [illegible]. Fischer, Mayr, without being then [illegible] lately to himself."

[illegible] claims to valuable discoveries in science are very common, and who has the best claim to the honors of this, I do not pretend to decide. At least one or two of those represented as such have but limited claims. Do we not see plainly sticking out of this the same hunkerish spirit that so extensively pervades the orthodox ranks—a disposition to pre-judge and proscribe every new measure which does not come through a certain channel? A writer to be heard by the profession at large, must be very careful to what extent he carries his innovations. If perchance he discards the mercurials, or some other destructive agents of the Allopathic system, he is forever afterwards ousted from the confidence and hearing of the faithful and the true in this most ancient august and sacerdotal body. Why should not this "new" and "novel" method of reducing dislocations of the femur on the dorsum ilii have received the attention due it twenty years ago, when introduced to the notice of the profession by Dr. Beach? Verily, how many are there who having ears, hear not, and having eyes, see not, many truths outside of their own creed which can be made highly available in relieving physical suffering. If Dr. Cartwright or Dr. Reid, or some other one in full fellowship among our Allopathic friends had made, in 1833, remarks in reference to this operation similar to those made by Dr. Beach at that time, would he not have been heard as Dr. R. is at this time, and numbered among the valuable contributors to medical science, and the benefactors of mankind? Now dear brethren in Allopathy look at this a little. Have you not long had a little too much intolerance about you? Should you not lay it aside, read and help sustain more Eclectic Journals and other publications advocating rational reform in medicine? If you will do so, I promise you, you will find many other "new" and "novel" measures which I doubt not you will be more inclined to appropriate profitably to the alleviation of suffering about you, than to palm upon others as original with yourselves.

Rochester, Dec. 27, 1851.

Brief Pathological Parallel between Hypochondria and Hysteria.

BY PROF. HORATIO MARSH.

That the genital organism has great power to affect the health of the other departments of the system, none will deny; but that this power is as great, and the effects of equal frequency and extent in the male system as the female, many may deny or doubt; yet facts observed and compared, might render it probable.

This portion of the human system possesses a double function, that of procreation, and also that of natural stimulation to the other departments of the system.

The change which takes place in the whole system at puberty, is as great in the male as the female, as regards form, mind, gait, &c. None will deny that this general change results from the development of the sexual organs.

The change also which follows the destruction of the sexual organs, is as great in persons of the one sex as in those of the other.

The manner in which the health is affected by the functional state of this organism, is not only different, but generally opposite. In the male it is generally by way of depression, diminution of energy; in the female, by irritation, excitement, excessive activity. This is from the constitutional difference, that the male system is more characterized by *tonicity*, and the female by motivity; the former being more *inert* or *resistant*, the latter more *sensitive*, excitable. In the former case the result tends to that state called HYPOCHONDRIA; in the latter, the state denominated HYSTERIA.

We will here pass over the well known symptoms of the above states or forms of disease, and briefly consider the physiology of the two.

1. As to the *voluntary* functions both of body and mind, the two forms of disease are opposite in character. In HYPOCHONDRIA, (most common in the male sex,) these functions are in a state of depression, languor, in HYSTERIA, (most common in the female sex,) the same functions are in a state of irritation, excessive excitement. In both forms, the will has more or less command of these functions; in the former they are too languid to yield obedience to the will; in the latter they are so morbidly active as to defy volition to a greater or less extent.

2. As to the *involuntary* functions, the two forms are *similar* in character, instead of *opposite*, as in regard to the voluntary.

3. The female constitution being characterized by more of *mobility* and *motivity*, when the genital organs become unable to expend naturally their share of energy supplied by the nervous system, they *reflect* that energy upon the voluntary system, rendering it ungovernably active.

4. The male constitution being more characterized by tonicity, firmness, inertia, less excitable than the female, when its sexual organs become unable to exhaust naturally their supply of nervous energy, they also cease to reflect the same, even in their natural manner and degree, so that the voluntary system not only is free from excitement, but also fails to receive its natural stimulation through the reflecting mediums of the genital organism.

True it is that some *females* suffer HYPOCHONDRIA, but they are those whose constitutions (differently from others of their sex,) possess the tonic character of the male; so some males exhibit the phenomenon of HYSTERIA, but they are those who possess the high mobility and motivity of the female.

Hysteria is wrongly named from the uterus; it should be named from the genital organism, without distinction of sex, and so should hypochondria.

We may observe in illustration of the above, the following facts:

1. That neither *true hypochondria* nor *true hysteria* ever can be found but in persons, who, careful investigation shows, are affected with a morbid functional state of the genital system.

2. That this defective *functional* state may result either from long inaction, continence, chastity, or from exhaustion consequent upon excessive venereal indulgence, or from domestic discord, affecting the organs through the sympathetic mediums, the domestic feelings or passions.

To specify more particularly, we may observe that

1. Persons enjoying *harmonious conjugal* relations are less apt to be victims of either disease than those whose fate is of an opposite nature.

2. Libertines are not victims of the diseases named, until excess has produced exhaustion.

3. The married are very liable to one or the other form, when "mismatched," *quarrelsome*, when long separated, when sexually intemperate, or when business or other causes of anxiety long divert the mind from indulgence.

4. We find these forms of disease in persons of both sexes, of the most irreproachable character, who have remained single till advanced in life.

5. Also in those who have, by bereavement, fallen from the married to the single state—in other words, who have become widows or widowers. Many in this second single state, persons of the most rigid continence or frozen chastity, suffer from one or the other malady; the organisms in question having become morbid in their functional state from protracted virtuous abstinence.

This subject might furnish matter for a volume, but it is not admissible here, for journal writing should, if possible, be concise.

To sum up the matter, hypochondria and hysteria should be charged to a defective functional state of the genital organism. The latter *is* so charged generally, and the former *should* be, and the practitioner should not let a morbid state of this organism escape his knowledge or baffle his course of treatment, or render him uncertain, bewildered, discouraged. When he becomes so, he may fail of directing moral as well as material remedies, the former of which are in many cases most necessary.

Persons of either sex may become victims of either disease, according to their temperament, from privation, the exhaustion of excesses, or from the sympathetic effects of afflictions in regard to the domestic sentiments.

One remark in particular as to hypochondria; it should never be confounded with the state of rational dissatisfaction or sombre anticipation, caused by real commensurate evils. Hypochondria is always imaginative; its griefs and forebodings, like those of hysteria, are without real, sufficient, assignable cause.

Meddlesome Interference.

BY C. H. CLEAVELAND, M. D.

There is no one source of annoyance to the physician, or injury to the patient, more grave or common, than *Meddlesome Interference* on the part of friends, neighbors, and not unfrequently, on the part of neighboring and rival practitioners. No matter how dangerous or delicate the malady may be — in fact, the more serious, the more likely it is, for those who know nothing either of the character of the disease, or of the nature and power of the prescriptions in the case, to speak boldly, and with all the confidence of blind ignorance, in demanding that the case shall be managed as *they* say, and not in accordance with the views of the medical attendant.

Sometimes this interference is the result of kindness of heart, and a desire to alleviate suffering, together with a vague idea that a *similar* malady has been cured by the course prescribed; and, without that knowledge which would teach that *similitudes* are not always *identicalities*, diseases of the most dissimilar nature are confounded under the same unmeaning name, and a most injurious course of management urged upon the patient, in entire good faith.

But at other times, we unfortunately cannot award the officious intermeddler even the negative excuse of well-meaning ignorance. In too many cases, the busy-body who volunteers an opinion in regard to the treatment of the sick, is not only *ignorant*, but is *willing* at least to risk the injury to the patient, if by so doing he can cast any stigma upon the physician. Numbers of this class, are *sometimes* to be met with among those who append M. D. to their names and are accredited members of the *regular profession.*

Well do I recollect an instance of the former, in the person of a fond mother, who unfortunately had become possessed of a work on *Domestic Medicine*, and when her little boy sickened, was not content with the efforts of the attendant, or with his diagnosis — but trusting in her superior insight of which she was not a little proud, *she* had discovered that he had entirely mistaken the case, and instead of a disease of the brain, the child's sufferings were all caused by a *Tape worm*, the symptoms of which were found to be so graphically described in her "*Doctor book.*"

Acting in accordance with the directions of the *book*, she plied her little boy with immense and oft-repeated doses of *spirits of turpentine*, together with a constant external application of the same, for two or three days, until the child was relieved of his suffering, and the mother of her darling, by the friendly grave. The post mortem revealed the fact, that the entire length of the alimentary canal was in a high state of inflammation from the free use of the oil.

Although cases like the above may be met but seldom, yet those in which a less amount of injury may have been produced, are of literally daily occurrence, and as the experience of each of my readers will furnish a host of sufficiently instructive examples, I desist from adding to the list.

Of the *second* class, I will allude to one case, not because of any

peculiarity of the case itself, but as illustrating a mode of procedure adopted by *some* physicians and their friends, to obtain the confidence of the patients and consequent employment.

A woman of about 45 years of age, had been observed to decline in health for some months, until finally she was obliged to take her bed for several hours each day, and yet her physician gave no name to her malady, neither was he accustomed to make her frequent visits—in fact, the neighbors were inclined to find fault with him for his apparent neglect, and some supposed he was in doubt in regard to the proper course to pursue.

A neighboring physician, hearing of this state of affairs, *accidentally* called at the house, and observing the lady to look like an invalid, he kindly inquired in regard to her health. She gave such answers as she chose, when he joyfully announced, that *he knew what ailed her, and he could cure her, for he had once had the same disease, and had cured himself in less than a month from the date of its commencement.* With a quiet smile, she replied that it might be that *he* could be relieved of such a trouble in *one month*, but she had no hopes of a final cure short of *three quarters of a year* from the commencement of her troubles!

This class of heroes are ready, Quixote-like to attack any thing, from the giant, or the wind-mill, to armies of men, or flocks of sheep—and are sure of victory for they have frequently encountered such enemies, and have always come off victorious. "*Never say die*," is no less their motto than that of Barnaby Rudge, and if unfortunately, the sods of the grave have hidden any of their patients from their sight, they have the happy faculty of driving all such unfortunate affairs, at once, and forever from their memories.

One person, from a costive habit, and from a vigorous appetite conjoined to a sedentary occupation, has suffered from what he styles *bilious colic*,—and when his neighbor, who has been engaged in *painting*, with a pigment, whose base is lead, but has never been costive, or had any hepatic derangement, is attacked with abdominal pains—and is advised to change his occupation—the first person, and his favorite physician, are ready to make oath, that the diagnosis of the attendant physician of the last, is entirely erroneous, and that the two cases are identically alike, and all that is needed to restore health, is to *discard* the first physician and his whims in regard to lead, and to make a persevering use of the *blue pill*.

So the world goes, and although many prefer the genuine metal, yet *Brass* from many others will receive as ready a welcome, and perhaps be more highly prized, for to that they are accustomed, while to the former they are strangers, and its peculiar color and quality, make it with them a matter of doubt and subject to dispute.

Perhaps I cannot do better, in this connection, than make an extract from an article by the writer of this in the November No. of Dr. Dixon's *Scalpel*:

"Every *man*, and still more, every *woman*, imagines *himself* to be a Doctor, and will unhesitatingly prescribe in the most doubtful cases, and for the most dangerous diseases. All are anxious to try their hands upon Dr. Watts' "harp of a thousand strings," and the greater

the discord they make, the more successful are their efforts considered. The taste for physic, when others' throats are to swallow it, like that for politics, seems born with us, and nothing appears easier to the enlightened *public*, than to repair the *constitution*, both of the State, and of the individual.

Who has not seen, over and over again, physicians of talent, and well-deserved reputation, put on one side, that the nostrum of the Indian Doctor, or the suggestion of some twaddling old woman, might be *tried!* No one is too stupid, no one too ignorant, too obstinate, or too silly, not to take precedence of the entire faculty, and when science, with anxious eye, and cautious hand, would scarcely venture to interfere, heroic ignorance would dash boldly forward, and cut the gordian knot, by snapping the thread of life. Well has a writer inquired, how it comes, that these old ladies of either sex, never became amateur practitioners at the bar, or speakers from the pulpit? The question cannot be well answered, unless *there* they do not find so quick a return for their labors, or, perhaps, in either case, the matter would not be surrounded with sufficient difficulties on which to give a fair trial to their Herculean powers."

The error and the folly of interfering between physicians and their patients. is one too grave and serious to be fittingly portrayed—and all journals of *Health* cannot too strongly point out the evils which result from it, and which in a greater or less degree fall upon all concerned.

Waterbury, Vt., December, 1851.

Remarks.—The writer of the above sensible article, no doubt, speaks "from experience." Indeed, what practicing physician in all our country but can confirm what he says. Officious intermeddling between practitioner and patient, where uncalled for, is one of the most ungrateful deeds of the private individual, one of the foulest stigmas upon the character of the physician. But it strikes me, that when this is said, we have given a hearing only to one side. If physicians never preferred their own interest to that of their patients, and never had been known to fail lamentably in their diagnosis, "interference" would be always wrong. But as the case now stands, would even Dr. C. advise the community to throw themselves, blind and dumb, into the sole care of their physicians? Of course not; for if they had always done so, where would Medical Reform ever have sprung up? Nowhere. The subject is one of more difficulties than at first thought present themselves. But, I venture to suggest, there is one remedy. It is only *wrong* "interference" that is culpable. How are the people to know when interference would be right, and when wrong? They can never know so well as an honest and skillful physician must. But enlighten them—give them a medical education,—and they will know much better than they can now. Popular ignorance is the physician's worst enemy. R.

Agrimonia Eupatoria.

BY DR. C. C. PAYNE.

This plant, more frequently known as "Sweet Agrimony," is too little known. I have often spoken of it to brother practitioners, and have found, in every instance excepting one, a very imperfect knowledge of it. I would therefore ask to call the attention of Eclectics to it. By consulting several authors, I find but little said of Agrimonia. The "Home Doctor" says, "This plant has a perennial root, from which rises a hairy stem, some two or three feet high, furnished with leaves coming off at opposite sides, one above the other, and composed of 7 or 9 parts, all of which are deeply cleft." The stem is terminated by a spike of yellow flowers, which blossom in July and August. The whole plant is used; it is slightly fragrant, and should be gathered when in flower. It will grow in almost any situation." "Dogmaticus, or the Family Physician," says, "It grows about 2 feet high, branching towards the top, bearing yellow flowers, succeeded by a small burr, something like a tory-burr. The leaves resemble those of a strawberry." "The Family Physician" (Whitney) says: "Agrimony grows 2 or 3 feet high, in hedges, &c., blossoms in July, on long spikes, which are yellow, and the seeds of it are remarkable for sticking to clothes." "Beach's Family Physician" tells us, "A tea made of it is highly recommended for asthma, scrofula, gravel, and eruptions of the skin."

Thus much for author's descriptions, and now I "show mine opinion." This plant grows upon light hemlock soils or sandy loam; the roots are small, black, fibrous, and 4 inches to 1 foot in length, of a pleasant aromatic taste, slightly astringent. Several hairy stalks grow upon the same root, branching, and resembling, as is said, "the strawberry," and are from 8 inches to 2 feet high. Flowers and seed answer the description above. I have made use of the herb quite extensively in my practice, and have found it a sovereign remedy in erysipelas. Mr. A. G. S., of Carlton, Orleans Co., N. Y., called upon me in 1841. He was afflicted with an eruption of the entire surface, filled with a white watery pus, and attended with an itching and stinging sensation, and after the eruption was broken, a smarting sensation followed which was almost intolerable. He had applied to some of the faculty, who had given calomel, salts, &c., and now proposed bleeding! I recommended a decoction of *Agrimony* for a constant drink, and occasionally a saline draught, and in 3 weeks time he was cured.

Mrs. F., of this city, sent for me about 4 weeks since. I found her with the face swollen, and a glossy redness over the surface, a watery effusion from the eyes, and upon the top of her head a lump as large as a butternut, with a hacking cough, chills, &c. I first administered our common anti-bilious physic, and followed with a decoction of Agrimony, and in one week she was about her business.

Mrs. L., of Holley, Orleans Co., called me in the snmmer of 1848. I found her troubled with scrofulous, glandular swellings, or lumps,

upon each side of her neck; the skin, over the region, of a shining whiteness. She had applied to several physicians who pronounced the disease "white swelling." A syrup, having for its base "*Agrimony*," cured her in a few weeks. I might add other instances of the efficacy of this plant, were it necessary. If what I have written can be of use, you are at liberty to publish it in your excellent journal.

SELECTIONS.

On the use of Fat in the Animal System.

BY JOHN W. DRAPER, M. D.

Professor of Chemistry and Physiology in the University of N. Y.

There is deposited in certain parts of all animals a substance insoluble in water, fusible at a low temperature, combustible, and, though of variable constitution, known under the general designation of Fat.

I shall direct your attention to the nature and functions of this substance. It discharges an important duty in the economy.

Fats are secreted from the blood, in which they pre-exist, by the adipose cells, which sometimes occur sparingly scattered through the areolar tissues, or, when clustered, constitute the adipose. The primary form of these cells are spheroidal, though, as is often the case both in plants and animals, this form is departed from through the influence of pressure, and polygonal forms are assumed. Between the cells of adipose tissue a net-work of blood-vessels ramifies, for the double purpose of furnishing to the cells the fat they are to secrete, and likewise water; advantage being taken of the proverbial insolubility of all oily material in this liquid, and so long as the walls of the cells are kept moist, the contents cannot escape by transudation.

The adipose tissues occupy an intermediate position between the tissues that are constant and those that are variable. They do not necessarily exhibit that extreme proneness to change, so characteristic of the muscular or nervous. With some insignificant exceptions, which will be discussed hereafter, no oily substance ever escapes from the system until it has undergone change. These bodies being insoluble in water, cannot be removed in the urine.

It is not alone in animals, but also in plants, that we find fat. In the leaves of various grasses, in seeds, and fruits, it can be detected, by resorting to proper chemical processes. In those articles that are used as food by the herbivora, it constitutes a very appreciable part. One hundred pounds of Indian corn contain about nine pounds of a thick oil, and one hundred pounds of dry hay contain about two pounds of fat.

What is the purpose for which nature resorts to this substance? I may answer that question by asking another. Why do men resort to it? Why do they go in ships and brave the winter of the Polar Seas, encountering the perils of the whale fishery? Why, in some parts of the country, are animals raised as much for their fat as their flesh? What is the object of all those inventions which transmute the lard of the hog into a pure and cleanly body, approaching in quality spermaceti or the wax of the bee? It is for the purpose of availing ourselves of the combustion of this tribe of bodies, which experience has shown are the best of all sources of heat. Fat is burnt in lamps and candles, because it is the most compendious source from which a high temperature can be obtained. Nature resorts to the combustion of this substance in the interior of the system, for the same reason that we do in domestic economy.

The constitution of the common fats is that they contain carbon, hydrogen and oxygen; the two former in great excess. During their oxydation a very large amount of heat is set free, because the heat-giving powers of hydrogen are brought into operation. When a fat burns, if there be an abundant access of air, the carbon turns into carbonic acid, and the hydrogen into water; but if the supply of air be limited, and this is a remark which should be borne in mind from its constant physiological application, the hydrogen burns away first, and leaves the carbon. In our experiments we often witness this; it gives origin to the dense black soot or smoke that arises from smoky lamps. When the combustion of an oil or fat in the system is complete, the products arising, carbonic acid and the vapor of water, are so constituted that they can escape through the lungs; and advantage is taken of this incident to effect the grand process of the introduction of atmospheric air. These bodies thus ministering to the functions of respiration, we speak of them as elements of respiratory food.

As was formerly shown, the fatty substances in the cases that more specially interest us, may be regarded as being composed of stearine and margarine, which are of a solid consistency, and oleine, which is liquid. We have seen that a rough analysis of an oily body, may be made by submitting it to a certain degree of cold, when the solid parts congeal, and the fluid oleine may be separated. Or, the same may be accomplished by pressure, between folds of blotting paper, the paper becoming imbued with the liquid oil, and the solid matter remaining.

All these bodies, as might be inferred from their composition have a very intense affinity for oxygen. Articles imbued with oil, as cotton, or flax, often take fire spontaneously. The oils in which this change most promptly takes place, assume a hard and resinous consistency, and are known as drying oils.

Two opinions have been entertained respecting the origin of the fat thus deposited in the tissues of animals. 1st. That it is manufactured in the system by certain vital or chemical metamorphoses from the food, in which it is not found to any great extent. 2d. That it is simply extracted from the food, in which it occurs naturally, being fabricated, in the first instance, by plants.

There are many facts which seem to show that fatty bodies can be formed from other organized substances. Several years ago it was discovered, on opening one of the burying grounds in Paris—the Cemetery of the Innocents—for the purpose of removing the dead bodies that had accumulated there, that all those which were below a certain depth had become converted into a fatty substance, now known under the name of adipocere. The muscles, the hair, the brain of these bodies appeared to have been entirely changed, giving origin to this substance, which has received its name from a resemblance it possesses to wax and fat.

A similar case occurred in this city. A female, who had been buried for nineteen years, was exhumed, and found to have passed into the condition in question. The whole body, so far as external appearances went, was completely preserved, being transformed into adipocere, and that without any sensible loss of substance. The features were perfect. In some places there were marks of the pressure of the funeral clothes—a piece of lace or other such ornament leaving its trace on the skin. The friends of the deceased had come to a very satisfactory conclusion as to the cause of the event. They told me that, the day before her death, the old lady had been engaged pickling cucumbers, and was repeatedly seen immersed up to the elbows in the vinegar she was using. They therefore inferred that she had carried the thing too far, and pickled herself as well as the cucumbers!

A second instance of the apparent formation of fat is presented whenever fibrine is acted on by nitric acid, dissolution takes place, nitrogen is evolved, and a fatty substance is produced.

A third instance is in the preparation of oxalic acid from starch. The starch being digested in nitric acid, there is separated an oily body. These are some of the most prominent cases of the apparent artificial production of fat.

But, as respects the case of the Cemetery of the Innocents, and the production of adipocere generally, Chevreul has established its nature by showing that adipocere contains the same constituents as human fat, partially saponified by ammonia. A mass of flesh placed in a current of water, will, under certain circumstances, change into adipocere, but not more truly fatty matter can be obtained in this way, than could have been extracted directly from the flesh by the action of sulphuric ether. So we conclude that, whenever the change takes place, it is not a production or generation of fat, but the muscular and other tissues decaying away, the fat is simply set free, and becomes saponified by the ammonia arising during the putrefaction.

Next, as respects the cases of flesh-fat and starch-fat, experiment shows that not more fat can be extracted in those cases than can be dissolved out by the aid of ether.

From these observations you will gather that, while it is not denied that fatty substances can arise from the metamorphosis or change of other organic bodies, as in the formation of butyric acid from sugar, the instances just brought forward by no means establish that position.

In a former lecture it was stated, that both waxes and fats occur in the leaves of plants. These substances possess such a relation to one another, that all the oily bodies may arise in succession from wax by a series of partial oxydations. Under the influence of the sunlight, the leaves effect the decomposition of carbonic acid, causing its oxygen to be evolved and its carbon to be fixed in their tissues. There can be little doubt that one of the starch family of bodies is the first to make its appearance. The formula of those bodies shows that, by partial oxydation, they can be converted into fat, a result that we witness every summer. The sap which has a sweet taste in the stem, loses its sweetness in proportion as oily matters form in the fruit.

From plants, animals derive the oleaginous substances they fix in their tissues. The vegetable world obtains them from the carbonic acid and water of the air,—the animal returns them back to the atmosphere as carbonic acid and water again. And, indeed, in this manner, all the carbonaceous atoms of which our bodies are composed vibrate as it were backward and forward from the inorganic to the organic world. Now they reside in the air, and are tossed about by winds and currents—now they are organized as vegetable forms, and after serving awhile for the sustenance of animals, are cast back by processes of oxydation into the atmosphere, to run their race again.

The general mode of accumulating fat is by collection from the food, both in the case of carnivorous and also herbivorous animals—in the food of which it occurs most commonly to a sufficient extent. But the animal system can, when forced thereto, transmute both starch and sugar into the condition of oil, in the process of duodenal digestion.

I have so often incidentally referred to the physiological uses of this important body, its destruction by oxydation in the interior of the system, for the purpose of sustaining animal heat, so often pointed out the great superiority it possesses over other bodies in this respect, by reason of the large amount of hydrogen it contains, that it is scarcely necessary to dwell on those points in detail. In fevers, where there is an abstinence from food, we see how quickly the fat disappears, a general emaciation setting in, and from those deposits where it has been so carefully stored this combustible body is removed.

For the accumulation of fat, whether it be incidental, as in the human species, or purposed, as in the preparation of cattle for the market, there are obviously two conditions. The accumulation will depend—1st. On the quantity of fat presented in the food, 2nd. On the slowness of its consumption in the system. Now there are several circumstances which bear on this latter condition, and which here require to be pointed out:

1st. Whatever checks the respiratory process, or the introduction of oxygen into the system, will aid in the deposit of fat. Quick respiration implies quick oxydation; for the air introduced must have its affinities satisfied. To promote the accumulation of fat, an animal must be so situated that its respiration shall be slow.

2d. The higher the surrounding temperature the less is the loss of heat from the body by radiation and contact of the air, and the system is not required to develope so much heat, and consequently the destruction of fat is less. A high external temperature tends, therefore, to the accumulation of this body.

3d. Rest, or quiet. All movements taking place in the muscular tissues tend to the acceleration of the respiratory act. A man runs, and he quickly begins to pant. Large quantities of air are introduced, and the destruction of fat is the consequence. For this reason, of all the conditions under which an animal can be placed, sleep is by far the most favorable for the accummulation of fat. The respiration is tranquil and slow, there is a great freedom from muscular exertion, and usually the temperature is higher than when we are exposed in the pursuits of active life to the open air.

These things have been long understood by persons interested in the fattening of animals before their significance was detected by physiological chemistry. In certain places, where an inordinate obesity is given to animals for special purposes, each of these conditions is carefully observed. When geese are fattened for the sake of their livers, a delicacy much sought after by epicures, the process is to cram the bird with as much Indian corn, or other oily food, as possible, to tie its wings and feet, to insure quiet, to place it in the chimney corner, or other warm situation, where the temperature is pretty high. Under these extraordinary conditions the bird sleeps profoundly, breathes slowly, introduces little air, destroys little fat. But the absorbents are busily engaged in taking it up, and an amazing accumulation is effected at last.

We sometimes see at agricultural exhibitions, hogs in a state of prodigious fatness. The form of the animal is altogether gone; if its feet touch the ground they are of no use as organs of locomotion; the snout barely projects beyond the rotundity of the face; the tip of the tail looks as if it were at the bottom of a pit. This forced condition of things has been produced by resorting to the precepts just laid down. The animal has been kept in a dark, warm place, crammed with oily food, in quiet, and asleep. Everything is done to lower the respiratory process, and abate the destruction of fat.

When we come to discuss the functions of the liver, we shall find that the secretion of that gland, the bile, stands in a certain relation to the respiratory function—bile, the predominating constituents of which carbon, hydrogen, sulphur, are all combustible bodies. In cases where there is an interference with the respiratory functions, as in phthisis, and where less oxygen than usual is introduced into the system, these combustible bodies cannot be got rid of in the usual way, by converting them into carbonic acid, water, &c., and a reflected action is thrown upon the liver, which, unable to discharge its duty, often becomes engorged with fat. In this respect the condition is not unlike that artificially produced in the goose, as above mentioned.

I am persuaded, also, that these things are intimately connected with those embarrassments of the action of the liver, and hepatic

diseases generally, which are so constantly encountered in hot climates, and in the warmer portions of our own country, in the hot seasons of the year. The high temperature of the surrounding air, often at a point near that of the animal system, prevents any great loss of heat either by radiation or by contact; the dew point, too, is commonly very high, and loss of heat by evaporation goes down to a minimum. In this semi-febrile condition, a man instinctively abstains from every thing that can raise his temperature, he avoids violent or perhaps even moderate exercise, he sleeps in the heat of the day, and as far as he can, diminishes the activity of the respiratory functions, and the quantity of air introduced. But as the consequence of this, the lungs are unable to discharge their appointed duty, an embarrassment is thrown on the liver, the carbon and hydrogèn, since they can be no longer burnt, fall under the action of that gland, which is overtaxed with the unnatural task.

It is for this reason that men in warm climates instinctively abhor all oily and fatty food, and choose fruits and watery diet. In these the amount of combustible materials is small—the use of them, therefore, leads to the evolution of little heat, and the disturbance I am dwelling on is to an extent avoided. How different with the man who lives in the cold north regions; an orange or pine apple is but a poor temptation to a Laplander or Esquimaux. He wants tallow and train oil. The cold air that surrounds him keeps his temperature down, so that he has hard work to keep it up. He wraps his greasy person in furs of the warmest kind, and consoles himself with the belief that in another and happier world the righteous shall feed on the blubber of whales.

What then, gentlemen, is the result at which we arrive from a full consideration of the subject? We conclude that man and all other animals under ordinary circumstances find in their food all the fat they require; that these have been made in plants by the all-pervading influence of the sun; but under special circumstances, we are constrained to admit, that if fat does not occur in the food to an extent sufficient for the wants of the system, the system by resorting to processes of subdivision, which we can artificially imitate, can manufacture it; that introduced by the lacteals, but not by the veins, the fats are either destroyed by gradual oxydation for the production of heat, one fat after another appearing in succession as these partial oxydations go on, and carbonic acid and water being developed at last,—or the excess is stored up in the adipose tissues for the future wants of the system, or, in the female, it passes in the secretion of the mammary gland, and is a constituent of milk. But whether it is thus stored up or thus secreted, its final duty is the same; it is to be burnt for the sake of the caloric it can evolve, and thus translated into carbonic acid and water, is restored to the atmospheric air, ready, under the influence of the sunshine, to be metamorphosed by plants back again into fat.

From these general views we now descend to particulars, and I shall proceed to offer you rigorous proof that both in herbivorous and carnivorous animals the fat deposited is not made in the stomach,

but collected from the food. We shall then examine the system followed on a great scale by those who are interested in the fattening of cattle for the market, and also the production of milk, one of the [illegible] which is butter; this will furnish us with striking illustrations of the principles under consideration. Next, we shall see how all oily bodies, when once introduced into the system, begin to undergo change, and evolve caloric, and how, in order to regulate and control this, a special mechanism is resorted to, in which the cutaneous and respiratory surfaces and the malpighian bodies of the kidney discharge an important duty.—*N. Y. Med. Gazette.*

The late Charles Knowlton, M. D.

(CONCLUDED FROM DECEMBER NUMBER.)

Having left the jail and returned to Hawley, I there remained, doing all in my power to accumulate a little property, until November, 1827. I was located on the top of a high hill, with very few inhabitants around me, and these few generally healthy, and in the habit of paying but small fees for medical services. There was an old physician in the place, with a farm to help him live, and a wife of influence to help him to business. The roads were terrible in the winter, no mills within three miles of me, and the people were more in the habit of hiving up and letting the roads alone than they were in breaking them out. There was no travel through the town, and all the business done in town in the winter season, was the business of consuming what had been accumulated in the warm season. Here I spent my winters, secluded in my office, studying metaphysics by day, and dreaming about metaphysical subjects by night. Sometimes, for a week, I did not take my horse out of the barn. At length my great end and aim was to astonish the world, and become even far more famous than John Locke ever was, by publishing a work containing the only *true* explanation of the intellectual phenomena of man that had ever been given. So I sold all out, collected all the money I could, and went to North Adams, thinking that there was the place to get out my book, because a little weekly newspaper with some six hundred subscribers, was printed there! At this time I was worth, reckoning personal property, in all, only about five hundred dollars. I designed to practise medicine and get out my book at the same time. But there were other physicians enough in the place to do all the business, and my mind being all engaged about my metaphysics, I got only a little practice, and most of this among those who never paid me. I got out a subscription paper or a prospectus for my book, pledging myself not to sell the work to non-subscribers short of $2,50, while the price to subscribers was $2. I was not able to obtain many subscribers; and I now pity myself when I reflect how anxious I was, how hard I tried, and how much difficulty I found, in obtaining credit and other means of get-

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·ıer agreed to let me have horse-keeping and
and supper and breakfast with his family, for one
Thus I got home without a single dollar in my

time (May, 1829), I was in a fine pickle. I had more
. being disheartened than many have who cut their throats
·w out their brains; and, in truth, I was disheartened. I was
·e in North Adams, with my wife and three small children, on a
·mall place which I had purchased, but was unable to pay for. I was otherwise about $1000 in debt. The bookbinder was expecting his pay on my return from New York. I was in no profitable business. My book, so far from procuring this for me, or a great and good (popular) name, only had an opposite effect. I was regarded as a deist, infidel, "bad man," &c., and the religious people —instigated, some of them by the clergy—gave me no countenance. It is true that I had but very little professional business before I published my book, and most of what I did have was among the poor operatives in the factories, who have never paid me; but in a very few respectable and religious families I had had some business, and thought I did well for them. I had reason to expect a continuance of their patronage; but it was withheld. I was all down in every respect, and knew not what to do. The bookbinder soon sent on his demand to be collected. With some motive or other, I know not what, perhaps a friendly one, the lawyer to whom the demand was sent, informed me that I should be visited by a sheriff in about twenty-four hours. I was without able friends, and viewed my case as rather desperate. I had just made up my mind to leave my wife, children, and all my effects, and start off on foot with only a pack on my back for Canada, as the hour for the arrival of the sheriff expired. I had several uncles and cousins, most of them in good circumstances,

ting out the book. I sold a horse with a view to obtain money to assist me a little, but took as part pay a note of forty odd dollars against a man who soon after ran off, and I have never got a cent of it.

Soon after issuing my prospectus, I went over to Williamstown six miles from North Adams, on purpose to see and converse with the late President Griffin, of Williams College, in that place. I introduced myself to him, and informed him that, so far as I knew, I had some *original* views of the intellectual operations, and having been informed that he had directed his attention much to the philosophy of mind, I had come to converse with him on the subject; and that I was the more desirous of doing so, because I had it in contemplation to publish my views, unless I should be convinced that they were erroneous. I then undertook to give him a brief summary of my views. But the old President declared them all vain, speculative, and mere hypothesis upon hypothesis; and said a great deal against hypothesis. He went on to prove the independent existence of mind, by quoting the argument of the Scottish metaphysicians, as Reid, Stewart, &c., and in the course of his remarks he said that matter is not a mere bundle of properties, as extension, solidity, &c., but that it is a substratum, essence, or unknown something to which these properties belong. I then asked him if the existence of his unknown something, or matter itself, as he would call it, was anything more or less than a sheer hypothesis. At this the old gentleman colored, and said, "Ah, Sir, I perceive that you see pretty quick;" and he said no more against hypotheses. We parted in good feeling; but I was more determined to go on in publishing my views than before the interview. But before I could get my work to press, I drew up a written summary of my views, and sent them over to President Griffin, with a polite request that he would refute them, if he felt able to do so. After waiting several weeks without hearing anything from him, I again went over to see him. I met him on the common, and on seeing me, his first salutation was as follows—"Ah, I received your manuscript. I intended to have answered it, but I have not had time, and shall not have until next winter. You may have it again if you wish." I told him that I did not wish to publish my views to the world unless they were at least plausible; and that I was really desirous he would show wherein they were fallacious, if in his power to do so. He then made precisely this reply—I remember his words exactly, for I have often thought of them—"Why, as for refuting materialism by philosophy, no mortal man can ever do it. It is only by scripture that it can be done."

Well, I was now even more anxious to get out my book than before, and after a long time, and much effort, I got it to press. But it was three or four months in being printed. I worked early and late at the press myself. I supposed my manuscript all complete, and did not review it as it was being printed. I went in for one thousand copies, fully believing that the greater number I could get out the more wealthy I should be within one year. There was no press at this office for smoothing and pressing the sheets after they

came from the printing press. We used to dry them, and do them up in bundles, and when we got a one-horse load of them, I would carry them off about twenty miles to a bookbinder, in Pittsfield. But in this dry state he could not easily make the paper smooth, so all the books contained paper more or less wrinkled; the type used was also worn badly, and the book did not look well. They however cost me, when bound, about ninety cents per copy, and had got me deeply in debt, with no means but the book to enable me to get out. I started off myself with a one-horse load of them for the city of New York, strangely expecting to bring back lots of money! I left my horse and wagon in Troy, and went down the river with my books in a boat. I remained in New York about two weeks, making every effort in my power to raise some money on my "Elements of Modern Materialism." But the bare title was enough to satisfy every bookseller. They would not look further; they wanted nothing to do with it. Finally, I set my face for home; but positively, all the money I had raised in the city, with all I could raise on my way home, was not sufficient to meet my trifling expenses, and I was compelled to violate my promise to my few subscribers, made in my prospectus, and sell one book for less than $2,50—nay, out of compassion, a tavern keeper agreed to let me have horse-keeping and lodging one night, and supper and breakfast with his family, for one of the books. Thus I got home without a single dollar in my pocket!!

By this time (May, 1829), I was in a fine pickle. I had more cause for being disheartened than many have who cut their throats or blow out their brains; and, in truth, I was disheartened. I was there in North Adams, with my wife and three small children, on a small place which I had purchased, but was unable to pay for. I was otherwise about $1000 in debt. The bookbinder was expecting his pay on my return from New York. I was in no profitable business. My book, so far from procuring this for me, or a great and good (popular) name, only had an opposite effect. I was regarded as a deist, infidel, "bad man," &c., and the religious people —instigated, some of them by the clergy—gave me no countenance. It is true that I had but very little professional business before I published my book, and most of what I did have was among the poor operatives in the factories, who have never paid me; but in a very few respectable and religious families I had had some business, and thought I did well for them. I had reason to expect a continuance of their patronage; but it was withheld. I was all down in every respect, and knew not what to do. The bookbinder soon sent on his demand to be collected. With some motive or other, I know not what, perhaps a friendly one, the lawyer to whom the demand was sent, informed me that I should be visited by a sheriff in about twenty-four hours. I was without able friends, and viewed my case as rather desperate. I had just made up my mind to leave my wife, children, and all my effects, and start off on foot with only a pack on my back for Canada, as the hour for the arrival of the sheriff expired. I had several uncles and cousins, most of them in good circumstances,

in Canada. I had talked the matter all over with my wife. I had never been in or near Canada, but believed that if there I should be able to get into business, and soon send for my family. I *started* for *Canada*, but the officer met me in the door-yard. So this plan was up. But I succeeded in keeping out of jail. I gave back my place to the man of whom I purchased it, and by getting his name on to a twenty-dollar note, and by turning out my watch, I was able to settle with the bookbinder. I disposed of pretty much all my property, in favor of my creditors, as best I could. My *Modern Materialisms*. however, were not thought worth anything by any of them, so I still retained possession of all of them, some of which were bound, and some not. During the summer and fall of 1829, I made considerable effort to raise a little money on these books, still holding them at the very high price which I had promised to do in my prospectus. I went into the State of New York, in May, with a lot of them, and a few other "infidel" publications which I procured in exchange for them when in the city of New York. I traveled with a horse and wagon. But I met with no good success. The only bright spot in my whole tour was at Saratoga Falls. There a resident of that place, Mr. Ransom Cook, a fine man, an ingenious mechanic, and a magistrate, chanced to notice my "*wares*," and he purchased, and encouraged others to purchase, to the amount of six or eight dollars. From there I went on west as far as Utica, and with all my efforts I could not sell a dollar's amount of books while traveling one hundred miles. I could effect no sales of any consequence in Utica, but I still contemplated going on as far as Rochester, and perhaps even to Buffalo. I left Utica near night, went about seven miles, called at a tavern, took a dish of bread and milk, as the best supper I could afford, and went to bed with a small quid of tobacco in my mouth, and for the first time in my life retained it in my mouth during the whole night, though this is now my usual practice. During the night it stormed. The roads were clayey and becoming bad, and in the morning I headed towards home, which I reached with my pockets about as destitute of money as when I started. I then set out again with a few books, with a view of going to Templeton and Winchendon, and at this latter place to put them on a direct line of stages to Woodstock, Vt., where I expected a man by the name of Haskell would be able to sell a few copies for me. I went by way of Springfield, where I had previously sent a lot of books. I had a very few scattering subscribers on the route. I left Springfield one afternoon, and went directly to Amherst, without attempting to sell a book. I put up at Amherst for the night, and after supper I took three or four copies of my Modern Materialism, and went to the College, with a view of disposing of them to the students. I succeeded in exchanging one copy for other books, and left one or two more for the students to examine until morning. In the morning I awoke and felt rich, as I had got possession of nearly fifty dollars in cash. I thought how glad it would cause my wife to feel when I got home, and how much it would help me in procuring necessaries for my family, and in moving—for I was about to move from Adams, as will be stated

more fully presently. After breakfast I went over to the College, to obtain the books I had left, or, perhaps, the pay for them. But when I got there I found the students had a very poor opinion of my book. So I took them, and on my way back to the tavern I called on President Humphrey, and presented him with one of the books. He hastily looked it over for a few minutes, and then replied that he should think a man of my appearance ought to be in better business than in carrying such a book about the country. I saw he was agitated. I told him it was a work of my own; that I could but believe that it contained correct and original views of the important subjects of which it treated; that I meant no offence in coming to him with the book, but thought, considering his standing, he might like to see an effort to explain the intellectual phenomena upon the principle of materialism. "I care nothing about your *materialism*," was his angry reply. He treated me without the least respect. I left his house with a great desire that I might yet be able to cause him to care something about materialism. In going from his house to the tavern I met a man, who went, I suppose to Humphrey's house. In a few minutes after I reached the tavern, this man returned, and coming up to me, inquired if my name was Charles Knowlton; and on being answered in the affirmative, said, "Well, I have a warrant for you." Of course I was much surprised, and inquired of him the reason of his having the warrant. He made but little reply, but hurried me off to the office of a magistrate, where I found a score or two of college students, and some other persons whom I had not seen, most of them quietly seated, and waiting my appearance. The complaint was for *peddling* books. I told the Justice that I was entirely ignorant (as in truth I was) of the existence of any law in this State against peddling books; but on the contrary had in several instances seen men peddling bibles and other books. But the Justice presented a law, which, sure enough, prohibits the peddling of books and many other things in this State, except by the persons who manufacture them. I then told him that my books were of my own writing and publishing, and that I caused them to be printed expressly for me. But this had no weight with him. I then told him the facts in the case, that I was not out for the purpose of peddling books, that I was distributing some to a few subscribers, trying to collect a little money of one or two agents, who had previously received books and distributed them to other subscribers; that I was on my way to Templeton to see my friends, and to put a small box of books on board a stage for Woodstock, Vt.: and that going from place to place, I did not stop on my way to sell books—I only made a little effort, now and then, to sell a book, when I had occasion to stop for other purposes; that I had not *sold* a book since I left home, but had only succeeded in exchanging one for other books. But it availed but little for me to talk. I knew it was the kind or *character* of the book that had caused the prosecution. The Justice said he must require bonds for my appearance at the Common Pleas, to be holden about eight weeks hence, at Northampton. I then told him I was there without friends, acquaintances or property. I told him something of the situation of my family and affairs—that it would be a hard case

for me to lie in Northampton Jail until court time, for so trifling and unintended an offence. He put the bondsat fifty dollars. I told him I could not meet them—could not secure any one to this amount. He wanted to know if I did not own a horse and wagon. I told him I had such with me, but another man had a bill of sale of them. And such was the case. I pleaded with him to lower the bonds to twenty-five dollars, and he did so. This amount I put into the hands of one Adams, a bookseller, to secure him as my bail, although it was his brother who entered the complaint against me.

Here Dr. Knowlton's manuscript abruptly ends. He never continued it further. In another article I will give the main incidents of his life up to the time of his death. F. J. W. T.

]*Bost. Med. & Surg. Jour.*

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*Phosphate of Lime in Scrofula and other depraved states of the System.

BY W. STONE, M. D.,

Professor of Surgery in the University of Louisiana.

In the July number of the reprint of the London Lancet there is an article by Beneke, entitled the Physiology and Pathology of the Oxalate and Phosphate of Lime, and their relation to the formation of cells. The conclusions of the author are based upon careful chemical research, and results from the use of the remedy. His researches show, that in man, as well as in vegetables and inferior animals, phosphate of lime as well as albumen and fat, is absolutely essential for the formation of cells, and he considers that many of the pathological states of the system depend upon a deficiency of this salt. The affections in which it is advised, are ulcerations dependent upon a general dyscrasia, and not a mere local affection; infantile atrophy in those suffering from rickets, and consequent diarrhœa and tuber; culous diseases, particularly of the lungs in the early stages. I was favorably impressed with the article, and being encouraged by the results of the practice, I am induced to relate a few cases by way of calling the attention of the profession to it, believing great improvement may be made in the treatment of diseases dependent upon vice of nutrition.

CASE 1. Slave Bob was admitted into my Infirmary, early in July, with a disease of his nose. Two large fungous growths, one on each side of the nose, barely separated by a strip of sound skin in the centre, of about one inch in diameter, extended nearly to the corners of the eyes. The cavities of the nose were filled by a similar growth, and the disease was making its appearance in the roof of the mouth. His general appearance was bad, and not unlike that of a dirt eater.

*Some notice of this article having appeared in the newspapers, we have been repeatedly inquired of respecting the phosphate of lime as a remedy in phthisis. We quote the article under the impression that some of our readers may also have been questioned on the subject.—*Editor Buffalo Medical Journal.*

He complained of pains in different parts of the body, but not much at the seat of the disease, and he had an indolent swelling on ene of his feet which finally softened down, and on being opened, discharged a thin matter and broken down tissue, leaving an ill-conditioned ulcer. I had to rely upon him for his history, which must necessarily be imperfect. He said the disease commenced four months previous to the nasal cavities and gradually made its way through. An examination showed that the bones had been absorbed—the mass bled freely, and, apon pressure, a thick, cream-like pus appeared, and some of it resembled softened tuberculous matter. Pulse feeble and frequent, and digestion bad. I do not know what particular treatment he had been under, but he appeared to be slightly under the influence of mercury, and I put him upon the use of the hydriod of potass—cut off the fungus externally, and extracted as much as was practicable from the nasal cavities with polypus forceps, and used a lotion of the sulphate of copper. No perceptible improvement followed, and on the first of August I put him upon the use of cod-liver oil, but his digestion continued bad, had acid eructations, which he thought was worse when he took the oil. The phosphate of lime was added, eight grains three times a day, and he soon began, for the first time, to improve. His color began to return—the local disease began to assume a better appearance. Local treatment was disregarded, and the oil and phosphate of lime has been continued up to this time. His color is now of a shining, healthy black. The fungus is even with the surrounding skin. Cicatrization is taking place, and the fungus has disappeared from the nasal cavities, so that he breathes quite freely through them. Those having confidence in cod-liver oil, may attribute the favorable change to it alone, but I would say that no favorable change took place until the lime was given, although it had been given sufficiently, I think, for a fair trial. The oil may supply one deficiency, and the lime another; but my object is not to theorize, but to draw attention. Bleeding, leeching, cups, and gum water, on the one hand, and tonics, stimulants, and opium on the other, are sufficiently well understood, but I believe that chemistry is yet to assist us, and enable us to relieve many of those undefinable maladies that depend upon vices of nutrition, either hereditary or acquired, which cut off so many before the natural decay of the sstem takes place.

Case II. Miss ——, aged 24, had been in delicate health for some time, without suffering from any particular disease. In May last, a dry cough commenced, and loss of appetite followed, etc. But, to make it brief, as it is but a common case, I saw her about the middle of June, and found the upper part of both lungs filled with tubercles, in some places beginning to soften. Her cough was almost incessant, expectoaation. slight, consisting of viscid mucus, streaked with pus, and occasionally with blood; pulse a hundred and twenty, much emaciated, and her menses had ceased. She had fever in the evening, and exhausting night sweats. I ordered cod-liver oil, together with a soothing cough mixture, for temporary relief, and to procure rest, which she could not get without. This course afforded some relief,

Now, Readers, to cull and carry you monthly a larger amount of valuable medical truth, we have made the present changes in the form and size of the Journal. Do they not meet with your most hearty approval? Will you not do more to sustain us in our noble work? Will you not constitute yourselves agents and procure for us Clubs of five, ten, fifteen, twenty or more subscribers, and send on their names to us forthwith? In doing this, you will confer no less benefit upon yourselves than on those about you. If you are a practitioner, when visiting your patients, carry this number with you, show it to them, and all of your neighboring physicians—(skip none because he differs with you in practice; but "do good to them who persecute you and despitefully use you.") Make them believe, as you readily can, that it is for their interest to subscribe for it, and send us on their names. In doing this, you will secure farther the confidence of the professional and non-professional public, give character to your practice, and materially enhance your business. Observation and experience has taught us this. It is no picture of the imagination. A physician in Ohio, in very extensive business, remarked some five years since, that "it paid him well to take Six Copies of the Ecclectic Medical Journal, to loan among his patrons and friends." There is no more genteel way for a physician to advertise, and bring himself into the good graces and favor of his community. Remember there is no other medical Journal of forty-eight pages in the United States, published at a price so very moderate.

To our delinquent subscribers we would say, we love to labor for those who think us worthy of our hire. We work for pay; and expect you will send us on our dues, and not compel us to worry you many months with duns, scolds, and other expedients for the same.

Circumstances have made it necessary for Professor Davis to give over to others his Editorial duties. In resigning his Editorial connection with the Journal, Dr. Davis will not withhold his able and spirited contributions from its pages. The ties which the exercise of correct principles, and his bold and generous advocacy of medical reform have created, are by no means now dissolved.

His successor feels that it would be indecorous in him to promise what he *can* or *will* do in his new relations to the Journal. It remains yet to be seen, whether or not he "was born for" such labors and responsibilities. He would rather move "along the cool, sequestered

vale of life, and keep the noiseless tenor of his way," and leave Editorial duties with those more experienced and better fitted for them. His devotion to medical science, and the interests of eclectic reform, will not in any manner diminish in his extended range of responsible toil. It will be his constant aim to labor in a manly and liberal spirit for rational eclecticism, and the highest interests of medical science. He will aim to express always with all candor, his own sentiments, and listen with much deference to the opinions of others, and allow them, as far as possible, their full value.—L. C. D.

Spring Course of Lectures.

The attention of Practitioners, Students, and all interested, is called to the announcement on the second page of our cover, of a Spring Course of Lectures. Many members of the present Class have signified their readiness to attend such a course; as also, many not now in attendance, who have written us from various parts of the country. There is little doubt, in view of present prospects, but that the Class during the Spring Course, will almost or quite equal that of the present Session. The interest and the advantages of such a course will prove, in all considered, fully equal to those of the present; as the term will fall at a season when the regular routine of weekly lectures will be much less liable to interruption.

It seems unnecessary to do more than barely allude, at this time, to the FACILITIES now at command of the Faculty, and afforded to the Class for an advantageous prosecution of the study of Medicine in all its departments. These received a full notice some months since. It may be remarked, however, that the entire Faculty are expected to be on hand at the opening of the Session.

Abundance of *material* will be secured, and every effort made to render the lecture season one of pleasure and profit. We may safely say, that during no Session of the College thus far, has satisfaction with the arrangements and opportunities of the course been more uniformly manifest, or more strongly expressed, than during the present. Never before have the hopes of the friends of C. M. College seemed so well founded, or the labors of its Faculty received so markedly the reward of *approval* and *encouragement*. We expect to see the growing reputation of our Liberal School of Medical Science well sustained during the coming Session.

All who may think of attending, will do well to be present from the beginning. No part of a course of Medical Lectures but can better be dispensed with, than the commencement. The *elements* of science in the various departments are then discussed, and the *foundation* laid on which to build the whole superstructure. Promptitude, under these circumstances, is most clearly the interest of the Student.

R.

The People's Medical College.

The People's Medical College! Where is that College to be found, and when was it incorporated?

The People's Medical College is the FIRESIDE. Thousands of these Colleges have been already incorporated under the act securing "individual sovereignty"—(an act dating back somewhat farther than the constitution;) and thousands more are now being added monthly to the number, all over the length and breadth of our land! The peoples colleges are vastly more numerous already than those for physicians!

And who are the Faculty—the teachers—in the people's medical colleges?

They are no less personages than ANDREW COMBE and WM. A. ALCOTT, with GALL, SPURZHEIM, GEO. COMBE, O. S. FOWLER, L. N. FOWLER, and Drs. BUCHANAN, TICKNOR, LAMBERT, LEE and CUTTER,—the whole host of *honest* public lecturers, and the great body of writers on Hygiene and Hydropathy. The Faculty of the People's Medical College is, in talent, enthusiasm, and reputation, second to that of no other!

The people are not idle or backward students, either. They are learning. They know more than iron-sided conservatives dream they do; for their bare politeness keeps them from showing their attainments obtrusively, or frankly telling hunkerish practitioners how nearly they are getting to be a match for them!

Possibly the people—the much vilified, much cajoled, much misunderstood people—will not always be satisfied with the fireside college! Possibly they will come together, form societies, organize for action, and *invite their physician to become, de facto, their lecturer and medical professor, and pay him a fitting and handsome salary* as their guide and teacher in matters of life and health. and the honored conservator of the public welfare. They will soon see that they had better pay him for teaching them the certain means of health, than for administering to them the uncertain antidotes to disease.

And who among their physicians will fail to perceive that, by beating down every barrier of interest which separates him from the people, and by stepping forward promptly to meet their call as a teacher, he will place himself in the way to change greatly for the better his own *daily business*, his relation to his patrons. their condition and prospects, and the prospects of universal suffering humanity! Oh! the work the people will soon ask of their physicians will be a god-like one, and happy he who is called, and who is prepared, when called, to do it!

No genuine reformer starts at these propositions with that sordid objection, "the people will become their own doctors;—there will be no need of me, and I shall lose my living." The medical men of our country are, in the main, men of *worthy talent and attainments*. They can easily divert their studies to the new bent, direct their attention to the people's needs, and they stand forth tomorrow, if need be, ready for their work.

As an *individual*, I would rather be taught the laws of digestion, circulation and respiration, than stretch out an ulcerated and gangrened limb for the surgeon's saw and knife! I would pay my teacher better wages than the operator.

As a *physician*, I would rather take my stand in the popular lecture room, or my seat in the friendly circle, and discourse of the perfect laws of our mysterious being, point out the conditions of health, and the way to secure them, than be called to grasp a case of loathsome drugs, or of cruel, glistening steel, and hurry from my comfortable home at midnight, with a pained heart, to strive, and sometimes in vain, for the release of a fellow-being from shocking agony and impending death! Who would not? "If any, let him speak; for him have I offended."

But the people have, and are to have, not only their schools and preceptors in medicine; they have also their medical journals. These now must often take the place of the living lecturer. There is no subject more *vital* to man and woman everywhere, than health.—Health is the soil in which spring all our joys—the sunlight by which alone we see to pluck them—the power within us by which alone we grasp them, no matter how thick, or how visible they spring around us. Take away at one sweep our soil, our sunlight, and our innate strength to acheive, and surely we are weak and poor.

It is the recognition of these startling truths of our nature that begins to create so wide-spread a demand for popular medical periodicals. The circulation of *twenty thousand copies* of a single Peo-

ple's Health Journal in our country, tells a tale portentous with results for the future, and the *immediate* future too.

But there are many journals of medical science already before the people. Our own Journal has stood in the list of them since its commencement. It is to be a People's Health Journal still, and it is our desire and effort now to make it such more distinctly and effectually than it has ever been hitherto. We shall devote more space —as we shall, in our enlarged form, have more to devote—to popular presentations of the various departments of Human Chemistry and Physiology, the science of disease, and its prevention and simpler modes of cure.

But we do not aim to make our Journal *unprofessional*, or useless to the medical man. Great pains will be taken to fill its pages with the most valuable of European and cis-Atlantic contributions to the sciences of organic Chemistry, Physiology, Anatomy, (Healthy and Morbid,) and the different branches of practice.

A medical journal of this character, is what both the physician and the people need. The former needs the simple, untechnical, popular articles, to correct a too exclusively theoretical turn of mind and study, and bring home to him the simple, common sense relations of our fleshy tenement to its sphere and circumstances. The latter needs the professional articles to lead him into the intricate field of vital causalities—to familiarize him better with the *inner nature* and scientific relations of man and life.

Will physicians and people now appreciate our efforts, and support them in this new, but as we believe, laudable and most important direction? This remains to be seen. But we enter the field of a new volume and year, without misgivings. There are tens of thousands about us who are beginning to put aside the gauds and gewgaws of "Vanity Fair," and who sternly answer the hawker, "WE BUY THE TRUTH!" *It will be our humble hope and earnest labor during the present year, to secure much of that invaluable commodity for the benefit of our customers.*

R.

A few of our Exchanges.—Glimpse the Second.

"The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal."

Very few hebdomadal sheets of Medical Literature and Science—probably none in our country—have attained so wide-spread and so well-deserved a reputation as this. Coming from our American *Athens*, and enriched by the communications of many of the best

medical minds of our modern *Greece*, we naturally expect much of this Journal, and our anticipations are not disappointed. Its original articles are strictly professional—perhaps too strictly so—and evince almost universally a high character of mind, and a uniform moral tone, and chaste correctness of expression, that would set a *literary Puritan* in raptures, if raptures were not contraband with that severely decorous specimen of humanity!

But, saying nothing of that air of staid decorum and mysterious respectability always pervading the pages of a "regular" Medical Journal, and which we LEVELLERS in the things of medicine can hardly be expected to value *at par*, the subject matter of the Journal under consideration is, for the most part, *really valuable;* and I hesitate not to express the opinion that, to any medical man, Eclectic or Allopathic, this must form a very readable, profitable, and hence, cheap periodical. Eclectic physicians will doubtless continue to patronize their own organs as they have done; but the time has come when, beginning to breathe a little more free after the strife for equal rights they have had to sustain, reformed physicians will no longer be content with one or two monthly medical visitants, but will enlarge their field of observation and study by the addition of the best Old School Journals to their reading, as they have already aimed to secure the benefits of their best standard authors. Of course, in this recommendation of an Allopathic Journal to Eclectic readers, no one will understand me to endorse all the modes of treatment there prescribed. The good sense of the latter class will teach them that Journals of the School to which this belongs are mainly valuable for their contributions to Anatomical, Physiological and Pathological science, and in the way of furnishing arguments in favor of a radical reform in medicine. For all these purposes, however, they are well worthy of attention.

The "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal" is published every Wednesday, at 184 Washington Street; J. V. C. SMITH, M.D., Editor; DAVID CLAPP, Publisher. Terms: $3,00 a year, in advance.

"*The Buffalo Medical Journal.*"

The December number of this, always excellent monthly, has been received, and is filled with original and selected matter of great value to the Physician. The ample selections of this Journal have generally a high practical interest. Among original articles, the "REPORTS ON FEVER," continued through several past issues, must prove very valuable to the Student of Pathology. The translation some time

since of Amussat's "Water in Surgery," was a shrewd piece of good policy, as at once serving the purpose of a *concession* to the liberal spirit of the age, and a *clincher* to the stubborn claim of professional dignity and infallibility, in the way of deriving all the most important *uses and advantages of water in surgery* in a line of "direct succession" from the undoubted "Fathers" in AGED MEDICINE! How it must delight the conservative dignitaries of our profession to find all the applications and physiological powers of their *Aqua Pura* (erst kept, labeled in quart and pint bottles to make a show of scientific Pharmacy!) here detailed at length, presumed to be of most honorable extraction, and all accomplished with but a mere allusion to the veteran interpreter of nature, to whom the credit of bringing them *impressively* before the world, is really due,—Priessnitz! But after all, who would carp at all the inconsistencies of a straitened time? If Allopathic physicians do honestly believe that they are *the people*, and "wisdom shall die with them," why should they not comport themselves towards their fellow-practitioners and their fellow-men just as we actually find them to do? We are all brethren if they will only allow it so: the difference between us is merely one of *judgment*—a very trifle! Commend me always to firmness—in a *good* cause.

The "Buffalo Medical Journal" is printed on good paper and in excellent style. forming a large but neat pamphlet of 64 pages, monthly, at $2,50 per annum. It is edited by AUSTIN FLINT, M.D., of the Buffalo Medical College.

"*The Pittsburg Saturday Visiter.*"

A visiter which might well find access to every fireside, and which ought to be among the reading of every young man and woman in the country. It is independent and *manly* in the utterance of its sentiments, and generally correct in the conception of them. Perhaps it is a pity the accomplished Editress has imbibed such an antipathy to a certain dress reform of the day. I verily believe if there were no more *Prolapsus Uteri*, Physicians would cheerfully attend to some other branch of their practice. We want a radical change in dress as a sanitary reform, not as a matter of taste or whim. But the "Visiter" is radical on points enough to make it an ever welcome guest with the friend of progress. Success attend it!

The "Visiter" is published weekly, at $2 a year. Edited by Mrs. JANE G., and WILLIAM SWISSHELM, Pittsburgh, Penn.

"*The Phonetic Advocate.*"

Printing reform is closely related to Medical reform. This is no paradox or far-fetched principle. Not only is it true in the light that *every genuine Reformer* is interested in everything relating to human well being. By the introduction of the printing reform, the pathway of human life would be smoothed, and active causes of disease removed. What more effectually sows the constitution with the seeds of disease, than to confine the tender boy or girl for hours in a close room, with hard study, unhappy feelings, bad air, and a concatenation of physical mischiefs completely environing them? Years are now commonly frittered away over an irrational orthography, and other years of inefficient study entailed by the habit of *aversion for books* thus engendered. Who can doubt the need, then, of a reform in our orthography? Has it not claims upon the support of every parent, physician, or philanthropist?

The "Advocate" is highly valuable for its *matter*, independently of its phonotypic dress. It contains excellent papers on various reforms; also phonetic news, and the news of the day. Any ordinary reader may become an off-hand phonetic reader by the careful perusal of a single number. Terms: $1,50 per annum. Address LONGLEY & BROTHER, Cincinnatti, Ohio. R.

Report of College Clinique.—No. 2.

Sat. Dec. 6*th*.—CASE 9.—Mr. B——, of vital (sanguine) temperament, and plethoric habits. About eighteen months since, fell down suddenly insensible,—on partially recovering was completely blind, with giddiness and pain in head,—was bled,—senses returned slowly;—like symptoms have remained, becoming more sensible about once a month—pressure in the head in the afternoon. Suffers under constipation, twinging and numbness in the limbs, and impairment of mental faculties, and sometimes difficulty of speech. Previous to the *fall* spoken of, suffered from head-ache and dizziness for some days.

It was remarked that the physical organization in this case predisposed to apoplexy and other cerebral disturbance. The derangement of the digestive functions had undoubtedly produced a condition favoring congestions, which, in this case, had located within the cranium, and constituting a low grade of meningitis. This would account for the disturbance of the senses, &c., and its extension downward to the spine, explained the tendency to Paralysis.

A rigid diet was recommended,—coarse bread among other things,

Anti-dyspeptic Pills, cupping, scarification, and the irritating plaster over the spine,—a wet compress to the head ever night,—daily bathing, &c.

CASE 10—Mr. D——, laborer, aged 26—some two years since got a globule of melted iron in his left eye, which, before it could be removed, was thrown by its high heat and the formation of vapor, into different situations between the ball and lid of the eye, in each burning deeply. High inflammation set up, ending at length in firm adhesion of the parts, the pupil being depressed and hidden behind the lower lid. Operations had been attempted, but without remedying the defect.

Prof. L. C. DOLLEY operated with a probe-pointed bistoury,—severed the adhesions, immediately the ball regained its natural position, and the patient saw quite distinctly with the diseased eye.

Other cases, no notes taken.

Sat. 13.—CASE 11.—Mr. S——, health generally good up to a few years past;—then taken with itching of the surface,—often so intense as to occasion him to scratch off the skin,—has often seen little watery pimples over the itching surface. Itching formerly general, now nearly confined to the lower extremities;—troubled somewhat with Diabetes. This patient was inoculated when quite young for the small pox, five times before the disease "took;" then had a severe turn of the small pox. Has been often and badly poisoned with ivy. Eats no pork.

Prof. L. C. DOLLEY diagnosed Eczema Rubrum, (a form of *Humid Tetter, or Running Scall,*) a disease seldom met with, hard to remove, and very liable to return. Authors think in cases of aged and feeble persons it is not best to undertake a cure. The patient being quite strong, might possibly be much relieved. Advised alterative remedies, Podophyllin and Styllingia, mild diuretics, and Beach's Yellow Wash.—Prof. P. C. DOLLEY added Hydropathic treatment, more especially the pack, long and repeated, as an alterative measure.

CASE 10.—Miss M. B——, aged 6; never healthy,—some months since got a large crooked pin in her throat; her mother, returning from church, found her straining to raise the pin, spitting blood, &c. Her voice was affected from the first—slight cough,—fever, shows itself now in the afternoon, and goes off in a sweat at bedtime. Scrofulous, has had measles twice—lungs worse since. Slight enlargement appeared just below the projection of the Thyroid Cartilage (Adam's apple,)—remains, but is not sore, or tender on pressure—reathing somewhat difficult.

Prof. L. C. Dolley thought the pin had lodged about the vocal ligaments—occasioned inflammation,—and then sunk and penetrated between the cartilaginous rings of the trachea, and the mucous membrane, where it now most likely is. Would not advise operation, but recommended supporting treatment and diet, wet compress to the throat, and anodyne expectorants.

Remarks were made upon cases of foreign bodies in the trachea and lungs, and the fact that the majority of all such cases recorded had been found ultimately to recover, although in many of them the foreign substance had remained for months, and occasioned hectic and other symptoms of consumption.

Case 13.—Miss B——, aged 16; troubled with involuntary rolling of the balls of the eye—upward and inward,—twitching of muscles of face and eye-lids—dimness of vision, heat and pain in the head. Prof. L. C. Dolley thought the difficulty chiefly a weakness and morbid sensibility of parts of the nervous system—showing itself most in the filaments going to the Trochlearis muscle, and in those of the Fifth Pair.—Advised tonics, with Scullcap, Valerian, Macrotin,—freedom of mind, exercise in open air, and attention to diet. The case showed a tendency to Amaurosis, (blindness,) and required great care. R.

Literary Notices.

"Hints to the People upon the Profession of Medicine."—Such is the title of a very handsome little pamphlet, written by W. M. Wood, M.D., U. S. N., Author of "Sketches of South America," &c., and published by Derby & Co., of Buffalo. The typography of the work is beautiful. The subject treated of, is handled in a calm, dispassionate manner, and many valuable thoughts and principles are to be found in the few pages here offered to the public. The logic of the book, however, is not (as we could not expect it to be) free from *sophistry*, as the author's mind evidently was not from *bias*. Thus the author argues that the science of medicine "is the study of the Deity through his works," and hence draws the conclusion that this science, "in its very nature, must be under the influence" of the "love of truth." The force of the conclusion is admitted, but the query arises whether *pride* and *interest* have been proved never to intrude upon even our "studies of Deity through his works," or to exercise upon the mind an "influence" superior to the "love of truth?" The author leaves these two powerful *forces* out of his figuring, and then, obtaining a favorable result, arrogates the whole

value of it to Allopathy! Again: "a *science* cannot be limited by any *system;*" "hence that of medicine, in its very nature, repudiates systems;" and hence again, "there can be no 'old school' or 'new school'—old system or new system—but all alike striving for facts and truth." All this again is labor lost. Admit there is no division of "systems" in the science of medicine; there certainly is such a division, wide and well-marked, in its practice! But Dr. W. goes on to use this argument against "new schools" in medicine, saying "the disciples of such an arrangement have shut themselves within a narrow circle, have bound themselves to a one-man dogma, to a system, and not to a science." He forgets that *some* of the new schools, at least, not only have, but *use* the accumulated medical science of all the others, and that it is only in *practice* that they pretend to have a "system" distinct from the one great science.

Dr. W.'s book will hardly avail to arrest the settling fabric of Medical Hunkerism, or renew its worm-eaten foundations. But it will do good, undoubtedly. Its strictures upon *real* quackery, upon patented (?) nostrums, upon the rapid multiplication of Medical Colleges, and upon the universal rush taking place into the ranks of the "regular profession,"—(reformed systems have not representatives enough!)—are all called for, and will be productive of benefit to all thinking persons or communities, where they may secure a reading.

This pamphlet may be had at DARROW'S Book Store, Rochester, and of the Booksellers generally.

"REPORT OF 448 CASES, TREATED AT THE NEW GRAEFENBERG WATER-CURE, DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS."—This report must prove quite interesting to the Hydropathist, or the liberal minded practitioner of any school. It must be chiefly so, however, to the *chronic invalid*, or to any one contemplating a course of water-treatment. Many of the cases recorded in this pamphlet are of a remarkable character, and *cures* have been performed at the establishment referred to, which will bear a comparison with those of any similar resort in the country. Its location is fine, water excellent, and medical supervision of a satisfactory character. The report says: "Of the 448 cases treated, 344 were cured, or greatly benefited, 63 partially relieved, 33 left no better, 8 died. No death has occurred within the last year." These cases were mostly, as usual, the chronic and desperate. Farther information may be had of Dr. R. HOLLAND, New Graefenberg, N. Y.

Miscellany.

Our Selections.—The selected articles of the present issue are, many of them, of peculiar interest.

Prof. Draper, on the "Uses of Fat," should be, not read, but *studied*, by all our readers, professional or otherwise. The science of Organic Chemistry is daily developing more momentous results. It is disclosing to us many instances of living functions once shrouded in mystery, which are now most perfectly exemplified by the simplest experiments of the chemist in his Laboratory, or indeed, we may say, the simplest operations of every day-life. Thus, we heat some part of our stove-full of fuel until its high temperature gives it an affinity for Oxygen, combination of elements takes place, and heat enough is evolved to warm up and burn the rest of the fuel, and to broil a steak, and keep the family warm besides. Just so the blood was heated in the infant's lungs, at birth, to such a degree that a new fire "caught" by contact of the air of the external world, and in its burning, heat has been evolved to extend the fire to other particles in the blood ever since, so keeping up the fire, and aiding to digest the food, and keep the whole machinery of life in warm, working order, in addition! Liebig, Lehmann, Simon, and others are doing much for this science in Europe; and though there are few workers in this field in our country, we have one—Prof. Draper—who is a *host* in himself.

The article on the use of "Phosphate of Lime," and others to the same purport, are creating quite a sensation in our country. It is not well to be enthusiastic in the adoption of new remedies; but there are some points of view in which this remedy is calculated to awaken our enthusiasm. It was first conjectured to be of use in certain forms of disease attended with low *assimilative and nutritive power*, as Rickets, Scrofula, Phthisis, &c., from the fact that an attentive study of the physiological growth or formation of the cells and fibres of the healthy human body seemed to show that this mineral was constantly present during the process. Now if the Phosphate of Lime did not enter into the substance of the cell or fibre, and it did not seem to, why should it invariably be present, unless as a *favoring condition* of the development of the healthy structure? The conclusion that such was it office was almost irresistible; and hence it was natural to suppose that in many cases of low developmental power, this, among other favoring conditions might be wanting in the blood. If this be the fact, the Pnosphate, taken in proper quantities will, in such cases, operate simply as *food* to the defective organiza-

tion, and not necessarily as a medicine. The few trials thus far made of the agent, seem to promise the most gratifying results in the management of such cases as those above specified.

The "Autobiography" of Dr. Charles Knowlton is an exceedingly readable production. Those who wish the entire story so far as yet published, can have it by ordering the November and December numbers of last year. The clear and mirthful head of the writer fitted him admirably for recording his own history; and such a history as his few other men could have possessed, and fewer yet could have so written! Devoid of that *vanity* which almost certainly spoils what a man writes of himself, either in the extreme of self-praise or that of a timid constraint, Dr. K. pens the philosophical conclusions of a sage, and the ludicrous or painful experience of an honest mind, undergoing the expensive process of getting its "eye-teeth cut," with all the simplicity and quiet wit of a contented looker-on. I may refer to some peculiarities in Dr. K.'s experience at another time. It is, at all events, greatly to be hoped that Dr. Tabor will redeem his promise, and complete a narrative which leaves the hero in a "shadow" from which evidently he must afterward have triumphantly emerged.

LATENESS OF ISSUE.—Unavoidable delays connected with the completion of our new arrangements, have deferred the issue of our first number till the present time. Our patrons will bear with us this once. We know the importance of promptitude, and will make it a point of *conscience* to greet our readers at the opening of the month hereafter.

DEATH OF VINCENT PRIESSNITZ.—According to recent news from Europe, the Father of Hydropathy is no more! The intelligence will create a profound sensation among the friends of the system of which he was the founder; and, in fact, among all classes. Has his "mantle" rested upon any among his survivors? His death occurred during the month of November, it would seem, at the age of fifty-two. "So goes the world." If a man is content with *reforming himself* in a quiet way, as did Cornaro, like him he may prolong a most problematical life to gray old age; but if the self-reformer is not satisfied with so narrow a labor, but undertakes, as did Priessnitz, *to reform the world*, and is led by his zeal in the cause he has

espoused, to perform himself the labors of half a dozen men, he must expect the "wear" of the life-machine to triumph over the best philosophy, and be prepared for an early grave!

ABOUT "STRAW."—We are not going, honest reader, to conjure up any "man of *straw*" to frighten you or ourselves withal. But there are men of veritable flesh and blood,—men who, like you and I, reader, live per favor of digestion, and ask bread and meat to feed them,—who present themselves before our eyes in the more formidable attitude of *duns*. And therefore, reader, look not upon *us* any longer as "men of straw," but if you have not paid your subscription, behold us too as *duns*. "Straws show which way the wind blows." Send us the "straws" then, and no longer like cruel Egyptians, ask us to "make bricks without straw!" R.

ALLOPATHY AND PATENT MEDICINES.—As a remedy for the evils resulting from the manufacture and sale of popular quack medicines, Dr. J. F. SKINNER, of Brownington, Vt., earnestly recommends his Allopathic brethren generally, to substitute in place of them suitable *domestic medicines* prepared by themselves. We are afraid, Dr. Skinner, that you have not found the universal panacea for the evils of nostrum vending, yet. The public universally are too much dissatisfied with the use, as medicines, of several leading agents of Allopathic practice to patronize extensively their domestic medicines. While the resources of your system of medication are thus distrusted, all of the falsehood and chicanery of the patent medicine trade cannot make your domestic medicines relish extensively with the public. The causes of the evil alluded to, lie at the doors of too many in the ranks of the medical profession. Demonstrate to the public the safety as well as the superior efficacy of your resources and they will be adopted with confidence, even when not *domesticated*.

L. C. D.

☞ The Editors propose to give in each of the future numbers of the Journal a condensed SYNOPSIS OR SUMMARY OF RECENT IMPROVEMENTS AND DISCOVERIES in the various departments of the Healing Art. Such we doubt not in this *multum in parvo* age will be very acceptable to our readers. The best Allopathic Journals, Foreign and American , as well as Hydropathic, Homœopathic and other Refrom Journals will each be made to contribute their fruits.

☞ Our readers may look for a series of articles in the future numbers of the Journal, upon the CONCENTRATED REMEDIES of the Eclectic Practice, which are now becoming numerous. Also another interesting series upon HYDROPATHY and HYGIENE. Those upon Concentrated Remedies will be welcome to practitioners who have not acquainted themselves with, and introduced into their practice, these valuable agents.

PURE DRUGS AND MEDICINES.—The subject of the adulterations so generally practiced in the preparing of drugs and medicines for the market, is one of very great importance to all consumers, the public and Physicians alike. The effects of these adulterations display themselves, it is true, upon the health, and in the diminished chances for life, of the community. But these effects are commonly so silent, gradual, and hence inappreciable, and so mixed up with the varying phenomena of health and disease, that the people, whose lives and health are jeoparded, must be comparatively ignorant of the mischiefs to which they are exposed, and unable to correct the evil.

The Physician, however, knows better what should be the course of a given disease, and the character of its symptoms; he knows what effect the medicine he administers should have, if it were pure and active; and fortunately, while he is thus enabled better to decide what medicines prove to be unadulterated and possessed of their proper virtues, it is also clearly his interest to use only such in the treatment of disease. The wholesale or retail dealer who adulterates a medicine with inert, or possibly pernicious ingredients, tampers directly with the success of the Physician, in treating disease. Certainly, then, Physicians should be careful to deal with those druggists who keep genuine articles.

We have only room farther to say, that we believe it is the aim of Messrs. HADLEY and KELLOGG, of the Pharmaceutica Institute, to keep only pure and genuine drugs and medicines.

Prof. A. K. EATON, who has had much experience as a practical Chemist, is now engaged in getting up pure articles of *drugs and chemicals*, which will well deserve the patronage of Physicians and others interested. The subject will be referred to at another time when we may be able to do it better justice. R.

ECLECTIC

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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Eclectic Physicians and Colleges.

An Introductory Lecture delivered in C. M. College, Nov. 3d, 1851.

BY PROF. L. C. DOLLEY.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is a natural and heart-felt desire of every teacher and professor, to secure early the confidence of those it becomes his duty to instruct. Next to this is the desire to awaken in his pupils sufficient zeal and interest in that particular department of knowledge which he is to expound. To secure these desirable ends, he usually feels it necessary to introduce himself, through an introductory discourse, as an enthusiastic admirer of the excellences and beauties of the science he teaches—to call attention to some of its essential bearings, and its great value and importance. Every one is usually more feelingly alive to the beauties of that department of knowledge to which he more especially devotes his attention. And when a professor dilates upon, and eulogizes in glowing terms, his own department, it is natural for his hearers to become more or less *charmed*, and to catch to some extent his feelings and sympathies.

Perhaps no department of medical science affords finer themes for eloquence to expatiate on, and stronger claims for your zealous devotion and untiring study, than that with which I am connected in this institution. The science of Anatomy has been truly styled the "basis of the pyramid of medical education." According to the strength and extent with which this only sure foundation is laid, will be the firmness and durability of the entire superstructure. He that erects the fabric of Medical Practice upon any other basis, builds his

house upon the sands. Considering the intimate connection of Anatomy to other branches of medical study, and its great value to every practitioner, it may appear strange that I do not confine my introductory remarks to this subject and that of Operative Surgery, which belong more particularly to myself. If I consulted alone my more selfish feelings, and limited my ambition to rivalship with my colleagues, I should do so. I flatter myself that by expatiating upon the benefits a thorough knowledge of Special, Descriptive, Surgical or Topographical Anatomy, and Operative Surgery, may confer upon yourselves and upon the hosts entrusted to your care hereafter, I should secure your attention and enlist your own feelings in my cause. By showing the particular bearing of these upon your proprofessional pursuits, and their claims for your special attention while here, I should be speaking of your own interests, and perhaps would thus warm your affections, gain your sympathies, and secure for my department the attention due it. The excellence and importance of the subject, and my motives and sincerity, might gain from you a mantle of charity to cover all defects in the manner of presenting it.

But, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am disposed to deny myself the advantages I possess, and select for a topic a subject fraught with no less interest, but presenting a scope of thought to grapple with, and properly present which, requires a more giant intellect than I claim to possess. I ask your indulgence while I speak to you briefly of Eclectic Physicians and Eclectic Colleges, and examine, in all possible good feeling and candor, what they are and should be.

I have the honor of being connected with Central Medical College, one of the Colleges in our Country avowedly Eclectic; and have for upwards of four years advocated rational Eclecticism in practice. I am enthusiastically attached to my profession, and hope I am entitled to a measure of sincerity and zeal in my devotion to the cause of Medical Reform. Believing as I do most solemnly, that the principles of our Eclectic Institutions afford the most rational basis for reforming and improving medical science, and destined in an eminent degree to promote that desirable reformation, it is not surprising that I should desire to lay their merits before you. I believe that the position and principles of our institutions, are not sufficiently understood and appreciated by the profession and the public generally. If an explanation of the same can ever benefit you, it is at this time when you are laying the foundation on which you are hereafter to build the superstructure of eminence and distinction. The selection of your medical school and principles is of momentous consequence to your future prospects; and on your selection will depend, in a great measure, what your coming success and distinction shall be.

In explaining the merits of Eclectic principles, Eclectic Physicians, and Eclectic Colleges, as well as the errors in systems about us on every hand, I will endeavor to speak with as much candor and ingenuousness as may be expected from an interested party. I wish

to deal with this subject dispassionately, and as one only interested in the advance of truth. Knowledge and truth are the only true passports to success and distinction. Institutions and opinions are beginning to be valued for other reasons than their antiquity, or the venerableness and popular favor of their advocates. Many, very many in our country, are claiming their intellectual rights, and are inquiring not for the *old paths* but for TRUTH. The triumph of our Colleges, our Physicians and our principles, depends wholly upon their intrinsic worth. I believe the course of right is the course of true interest, and that the greater part of the rising generation would act right, were they only rightly informed; and that the reason why our position and principles are not more generally approved and advocated is, that they are not sufficiently well known and appreciated.

To satisfy any rational mind that medical science, as taught by the principal medical institutions in this country, needs reform, requires little or no argument. The universal dissatisfaction that prevails with the people, as manifested by the countenance given to various imperfect and empirical systems of practice, and the enormous sale of patent and quack medicines, must be regarded as sufficient proof that the medical profession is somewhere at fault. Scarcely a paper of twenty columns can be found, but at least *eleven* are filled with advertisements of nostrums. While Brandreth's, Townsend's, Vaughn's, and a thousand other pills, syrups, liniments, vermifuges, &c., are flooding the country, new ones are constantly appearing in rapid succession, and going through their several stages of rise, acme, and decline. Had a tenth part of them possessed a tenth part of the potency claimed, they would long since have "*made nature immortal, and death should have played for lack of work.*" Many adventurers in this broad field of imposition and lucrative speculation, are from the ranks of the regular profession, which they have deserted with a hope of making a fortune in a day, instead of acting the part of the true votaries of medical science. If the profession of medicine is what it should be, would this be so? Should not a system, if truthful and right, retain the confidence of our intelligent and liberal masses?

This lack of confidence in the established practice, is by no means confined to the unlearned and ill-informed. Families of decided respectability and good sense—families who would be sure to get the best legal advice, and sit under the ministrations of a regularly educated clergyman, are everywhere found not only willing to resort to quack medicines, but disposed to patronize Homœopathy, Hydropathy, and any other than "regular" Physicians. As a Philadelphia Medical Journal says, "the lawyer himself, though he sees his own profession hemmed in by the strict limits of a prescribed education, and by a formidable array of antiquated technicalities, thus opposing to the intrusion of quackery a firm, though time-worn and moss-covered wall,—even *he* is often seen encouraging in our profession empiricism of the grossest kind; and perhaps cheers on and assists an ignorant populace in pulling down our walls. The legislator, too,

appointed by the people as the protector of all those barriers which have been erected to guard them at every point against the evils of irresponsible ignorance and secret imposture, though faithful to his trust in regard to all other interests, and instinctively shrinking from jeopardizing them by the withdrawal of the defences of the law, batters down with ruthless hands the barriers which protect (?) the health and life of his fellow citizens, and sends in through the breach the whole motley herd of illiterate and reckless quacks. And the clergyman, who deplores gross theological errors that come from *irregularity* and *forsaking of the old paths*, and is of the straitest orthodoxy in excluding quackery from his own profession, is first in the ranks of the patrons of medical empiricism." Why is this so? Is not medical science, as it has been heretofore taught, somewhere greatly at fault? Should it be said of the true cultivators of medical science and the real guardians of the public health—

> Out, ye impostors!
> Quacksalving, cheating montebanks! your skill
> Is to make sound men sick, and sick men kill."

Why this want of confidence, this universal dissatisfaction, and these harsh denunciations among all classes of our intelligent and discerning public? We venerate much that is profound and almost hallowed in Allopathic medicine—we willingly honor its many philanthropic votaries, who have toiled unceasingly to ameliorate the physical ills of mankind;—yet to the very doors of Allopathy, I think, we must trace the cause of this diminished confidence in Allopathic medication, and the growing tendency in the public mind to patronize the new, more liberal, and progressive systems.

The Allopathic system in this country has ever possessed some decidedly morbid conditions and tendencies. Its theory and practice have been, in many particulars, greatly at fault. First, in the supposition that direct depletion and abstraction from the powers of life or otherwise, was necessary and salutary in a large class of diseases. Secondly, in the adoption and almost universal use of a few active mineral and other agents, whose application would require but little labor and study, on the part of the practitioner. Thirdly, in too exclusive attention to a few leading organs—as the stomach, bowels, and liver—and a too great neglect of others equally or more important, as the skin, &c. Also, in a total disregard, in the application of remedies, to the *stamina of the constitution and the future health of the patient.* Besides these morbid conditions and tendencies in the Allopathic body, it evidently became long since quite too corpulent and hunkerish to progress with the times. It has become, by age and conservatism, so blinded as not to discern and appreciate many of truth's more modern emanations. This light, shut out by intolerance and conservatism, however nebulous at first, has become condensed into various fragmentary systems, each of which have so dazzled many, that they have ceased to be influenced by other principles and facts equally important, and thus have become exclusive, partial, and ultra in their views and practice. Many are so dazzled by the star Hahnemann, that light from all other luminaries is

rejected. The truths embodied in his system, as well as in those of Priessnitz, Thomson and others, have gained for each a wide-spread popularity. It must be apparent to every reflecting mind, that this spirit of exclusiveness and ultraism on the one hand, and of conservatism on the other, has not and cannot give to medical science the steady and inflexible march which the progressive tendencies of the age demand.

In accordance with the spirit of our civil and political institutions, some years since a few benevolent minds caught the spirit of MEDICAL FREEDOM. Among these was Professor Morrow, one whom we shall love to honor more and more as we see the triumph of the principles which he advocated. Believing "that men of science, skill, worth and talent, may be found among the adherents of nearly all the conflicting systems of medical practice ; and that thorough medical attainments and qualifications are far from being confined to those who so graciously assume to themselves the cognomen of 'regular physicians', (which indeed has long since ceased to be an infallible passport to public favor, especially among those who are properly enlightened upon practical medicine),—and fortunately for the cause of truth and science, the great body of mankind begin to feel it their duty to bring every system, as well as every practitioner, to the righteous tests of this impartial ordeal, either to be sustained by the encouraging smiles of public approbation, or sink beneath the irresistible force of its condemnation."—Believing thus, Dr. Morrow, with a few whose views and sympathies were not dissimilar, signed with emboldened hands a DECLARATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL INDEPENDENCE. They entered the field publicly as advocates of Eclectic Reform, a scheme of reform which professes to discard all profsssional bigotry,—to be governed by no fanciful theories,—but to seek truth from every source. By the labor of these men was established the medical department of the Worthington College in Ohio. The teachers in this institution were the devotees not of high-wrought theories, but of facts—not of time-honored schools, but of nature. This institution declared itself as not advocating any exclusive system. It was the first institution in our country really worthy of the name ECLECTIC.

This is the same College which Dr. Beck referred to most contemptuously, in his report on the Statistics of Medical Colleges, to the Medical Society of the State of New York, in 1840. He felt extremely grieved that it had beeh foisted among Medical Colleges by the AMERICAN ALMANAC, and the Editors of the AMERICAN QUARTERLY REGISTER of Education. Though Dr. Beck could not deign to include it in his list of Medical Colleges, and stigmatized it as Thomsonian and empirical, it flourished and triumphantly withstood the shafts hurled at it maliciously by bigoted Allopaths and ultra-Thomsonians on every hand. It lived and gave permanence and character to this reformatory movement, which is now represented and advocated by several flourishing Colleges, and by more than three thousand intelligent and successful practitioners in our country. Central

Medical College is one that is reared upon the same extended high liberal basis, and in which Medical Science is cultivated and taught in the same benevolent and democratic spirit.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Active Principles of Medicine.—Podophyllum and Podophylliu.

BY PROF. W. W. HADLEY.

PODPOHYLLUM.—"The Rhizoma of the Podophyllum Peltatum" U.S.

BOTANY.—*Sex. Syst.*—Polyandria Monogynia. *Natural Order*—Podophylleæ, *Lindley*. Ranunculi, *Juss*. Rhœadeæ, *Linn*. Berberidaceæ. *Griff*.

GENERAL CHARACTERS.—*Sepals*, three, deciduous. *Petals*, six to nine obovate. *Stamens*, six to eighteen, with linear anthers. *Ovary*, ovate, subsessile, peltate. *Fruit*, fleshy, indehiscent, containing numerous seeds in several rows, in a pulpy placenta.

SPEC. CHAR.—*Root*, Rhizoma, perennial, creeping, long, jointed, three or four lines in thickness, smooth, of a brown color externally, and yellowish within; the stem is simple, upright, and smooth, about a foot in height, two-leaved, and bearing a single flower at the insertion of the petioles. The leaves are large, peltate-palmate, and divided into five or six lobes, which are incised at top, of a yellowish green above, and somewhat glaucous beneath. The flower is nodding, large, white, and somewhat fragrant, and is succeeded by an oval fruit, of a lemon yellow color, containing a thick, mucilaginous pulp, in which the seeds are immersed, all connected to the lateral receptacle by fibres.

COMMON NAMES.—*Mandrake*, *May Apple*, *Wild Lemon*, *Raccoonberry*, &c.

LOCALITY.—This plant is mainly North American, and was thought to consist of but one species, though Rafinesque recognizes three—the *Peltatum*, *Mantanum*, and *Callicarpum;* the latter is considered by Forrey and Gray to be a mere variety of the first, and this is probably the case: the *Montanum*, however, judging from Rafinesque's description and plate, presents many differential characters, especially in having palmate but not peltate leaves.

Other species have lately been found in Northern India, one of which has but six stamens.

The May Apple is found in great plenty in almost all parts of the United States, in damp shady woods, though occasionally to be met with in dry and exposed situations. It flowers in May and June, and ripens its fruit in September, at which time the leaves wither and fall off. The fruit is edible, and its taste to some persons quite agreeable—to others very unpleasant; it is slightly aperient, and may be used in considerable quantities without unpleasant effects.

The root in its recent state contains a poisonous principle, of a volatile character, which is readily dissipated by drying. The dried

root is compact, fragile, and readily reduced to powder. Its taste is peculiar, and rather unpleasant; and, when chewed for some time, strongly bitter, and somewhat acrid. The root of this plant was in common use among the Indians, before the settlement of this country by the whites, and was considered by them as one of their most powerful purgatives. It has had an empirical reputation as a cathartic since the early settlement of our country, and more recently has received the attention of the profession. The first writers on the Materia Medica that noticed it, as Schoep and Puihn, speak of it as an emetic; but unless used in too fresh a state, or in large doses, it does not affect the stomach more than any other active purgative,

The dried root of Podophyllum contains a trace of an essential oil, extractive, gum, starch, gallic acid, a peculiar resinoid principle, upon which most of its therapeutic properties depend, and which, though not strictly scientific, has, for the sake of expressivenesss and convenience, been termed "PODOPHYLLIN." As prepared, this is of a pale yellow color, though it may be obtained in a white crystalline form, but at the expense of many of its medicinal virtues.

THERAPEUTIC PROPERTIES, AND USES.—Podophyllin is one of the most useful and valuable cathartics we possess. One important object among Reformers has been, to find a medicine which would affect the glandular system, and secretory organs generally, without the danger that attends the use of the mercurials. This object which was of paramount importance, on account chiefly of the incalculable misery that mercury has produced, through the many that have been absolutely destroyed, and others diseased for life, has now been obtained in the discovery of the potent and useful therapeutic properties of the article under consideration.

The crude root in a powdered form has long been employed for the same purposes, and would answer very well were it not that the magnitude of the dose required to produce the due influence, is such, that many individuals are prevented from taking it, from the great oppression and other unpleasant effects it occasions within the stomach. On the other hand, the Podophyllin seldom will oppress or nauseate the stomach in a medium dose, and is mild, easy, and unirritating in its action, to a greater extent than most other agents possessing equal potency. At the same time its application is extensive, producing a very decided impression upon the liver, giving rise to copious bilious discharges, and answering every reasonable expectation as a cholagogue, or excitant and alterative to the biliary system, influencing the liver to action when the mercurials had failed to afford it.

In a large dose Podophyllin will produce nausea, vomiting, and active purging of a hydragogue character, inducing copious watery evacuations from the bowels. In minute doses it acts efficiently as an alterative, extending its influence through every part of the system, exciting a general action, and stimulating the glands to a discharge of their respective offices.

Among the many cases to which Podophyllin is peculiarly adapted, the following may be mentioned:

Bilious, Remittent, and Intermittent Fevers.—Its effect is to thoroughly cleanse the stomach and bowels; and its impression upon the vascular system is such as greatly to lessen arterial excitement, equalize the circulating fluids, and by its cholagogue effect upon the liver and portal circle, cleanse that viscus from morbid secretions, and induce a free action and healthy condition. There is probably no article now known capable of fulfilling more important indications, or that could supply its place in these cases.

In *Hepatitis*, *chronic* or *acute*, and in *Jaundice*, it displays its peculiar effects in promoting a healthy action of the functions of the liver, and may be relied upon in the treatment of these various diseases.

In chronic enlargements of the *spleen*, it is exhibited with marked advantage, given in broken doses to insure its alterative influence.

In *Dropsies* it may be used with great benefit, as aside from the impression produced upon the system generally, it is somewhat hydragogue in its effects, and stimulates the absorbents to the removal of aqueous deposits from the serous cavities.

In chronic enlargements of the *glands*, perhaps there are few articles that display more valuable qualities in the removal of these, many times troublesome affections. It will seldom or never be administered in these cases without benefit, as from its direct influence upon these portions of the organism, it tends to excite in them a healthy physiological action.

In the treatment of *Dysentery* it may be regarded as not among the least useful of the agencies the skillful healer may employ for the successful management of this always dangerous, and often fatal disease.

This may often be associated with hepatic derangement, and usually, the small intestines are loaded with irritating accumulations and vitiated secretions of an acrid character, which require a prompt removal. This is accomplished readily and easily by the agent under consideration, and in its action it does not aggravate, but rather lessens the already irritable condition of the mucous membrane of the intestines. When Podophyllin had but recently come under my notice, I supposed it too powerful for many cases, and but seldom employed it, and only in instances where a powerful effect was required. The more I have used it, the less I fear irritating effects from its use, and now I prescribe it in cases where formerly I should have regarded it as dangerous. This change of opinion has arisen from experience in its use, and now I employ it, when indicated, for all ages and both sexes. In dysentery I can find nothing that will equal its peculiar effects. It not only removes irritating accumulations from the bowels, but restores the arrested or suspended secretions upon which a restoration to health depends.

I have employed it in at least 300 cases, I may safely say, and I have not in a single instance, to my recollection, met with any ill

results. In an attack of this kind, in my own case, which occurred in October last, while in New York, I took nothing till my return home, which was some three days after the attack; I took a single dose, and repeated it in 48 hours; a thorough evacuation followed each dose, the bloody discharges, tormina and tenesmus soon ceased, and, without taking a particle of any other medicine, I was soon well.

In acute and chronic *Diarrhœa*, it is probably not surpassed where a cathartic is indicated.

From the peculiar laxative condition in which it leaves the bowels after an operation, it is found especially useful in *constipation*, and particularly if that difficulty depends in whole or in part upon functional derangement of the liver.

In *inflammatory* diseases, it cannot well be dispensed with, and particularly in *Phrenitis*, the revulsive influence of its brisk cathartic effect is highly valuable, and will greatly mitigate the attendant symptoms.

In numerous other affections it is a desirable remedy. The treatment of *Scrofula*, in particular, is greatly facilitated by its use; and without specifying its use in the various diseases, it may be employed in all the variety of cases, to fulfil those indications in which it has been supposed by the "regulars" that nothing else would answer the purpose but some one of the preparations of "*Hydrargyrum.*"

Mode of Employment.—Podophyllin may be used in substance, or combined with some other article to prevent its too free action locally upon the mucous membrane. It may be combined with simple Syrup, in which it will be suspended; or triturated with purified sugar, with which it may be combined to a greater or less extent to suit the views of the prescriber.

If a hydragogue effect would be desirable, the Bi-tartrate of Potassa makes a very convenient vehicle, and also quite disguises the taste of the medicine. Other articles may be substituted to meet the wishes or convenience of the practitioner; but in my own practice, I have more frequently prescribed it without any addition than in any other way.

Dose.—As an alterative in scrofulous, syphilitic and other affections, and as a laxative, it may be given in doses varying from one-eighth to one-fourth of a grain, repeated according to circumstances; as a cathartic, from one to three grains.

Urino-Pathology.

BY L. OLDSHUE, M. D.

On the presentation of a specimen of urine for examination, the *age* of the patient is first to be obtained. This is necessary, inasmuch as even healthy urine varies in composition in children, adults, and aged persons. It is more aqueous in children, more acrid and solid in adults, and more fetid, &c., in the aged.

The next thing to be observed is the color and opacity of the urine; the cloudiness or transparency of which, and the deepness or the paleness of its color, will alone many times enable us to determine at once, the *class* at least, to which such specimen belongs. In this we are borne out by Dr. Bowman, who says: "The urine passed during a diseased state of the system, is almost invariably more or less altered in its composition, and frequently presents physical peculiarities, as of color, opacity, &c., which are at once apparent on the most cursory examination."

Next, then, comes the examination of the specific gravity of the urine, by immersing in that fluid the gravimeter or urinometer. This gives us a knowledge of the density of the urine, which also is of very considerable importance; as, according to Dr. Bird, "it puts us in possession of the data necessary for the calculation of the proportion of solids excreted by the kidneys: and thus not unfrequently enables the physician to detect a previously unsuspected cause of emaciation."

Then follow the tests of acidity, alkalinity, or neutrality of the urine. This is done by immersing in that secretion blue and red litmus paper. If the urine be acid, the blue color of the paper will be changed to red: if alkaline, the reddened paper will be changed to blue; but if no change occur in either, the urine is neutral. A knowledge of these different states of the urine is highly important; more particularly, however, in the after consideration and chemical analysis of the deposits, as a guide to the selection of tests, and the direction of experiments, which it is sometimes necessary to make.

In the examination of such deposits, "the microscope will be found to afford the most valuable and ready assistance, the simple microscopic inspection of a deposit often rendering its true nature at once apparent."

From the peculiarities, then, of color, opacity, quality, specific gravity, deposits, &c., of the urine, we are led to form a very close conjecture at least, as to the real nature of the disease; which conjecture, one or two well directed experiments will generally be sufficient to decide.

The urine passed after a night's rest, is that which is preferred by Chemico-Pathologists, and that which should always be selected by Uroscopian Physicians; it being more independent of the immediate stimulus of food and of drink, and hence coming more directly through the medium of the blood, and thereby exhibiting more a "sort of extract of animal substance," and presenting in greater perfection the essential characters of urine.

The best mode of microscopically examining urinary sediments, is thus given by Griffith:

"Allow the urine to stand; decant the supernatant fluid; pour the remainder into a watch-glass; draw off the small quantity of fluid remaining after a short repose, by means of a pipette; then it can be conveniently viewed under the field of the microscope."

I would here remark, that our chemico-microscopical examinations nave substantially been gathered from Bird, Rees, Bowman, Griffith, and Markwick, and the principal authors on Urino-Pathology; and that the Uroscopian system has been greatly advanced by the respective researches of these scientific men.

The whole strength and beauty of the system, however, will be found to rest upon the humoral pathology, or the theory that all diseases originate in the blood. ".The blood is the life." Disease being the direct antagonist of life, and consequently of the blood, and the complete--extermination of life or destruction of the blood, being death, we regard the blood as being not only the primary subject of attack in all cases, but as being the continued subject of disease in whatever manner it may develope itself.

"The right auriole of the heart is the part first seen to pulsate in the embryo, and in death is the last to retain its motion."

The blood, then, is the beginning and the end of life—the alpha and omega—the life itself.

This vital fluid, then, so speedily circulating through every part of the human system—the amount of its whole volume being returned through the heart every four or five minutes, and the urine being secreted entirely from this vital fluid—have we not good reason to infer at least, that this secretion plays no insignificant part in the phenomena of animal existence?

And when we find in every disease, that the blood and the urine are both definitely and simultaneously altered in composition, and that these alterations go hand in hand, as in dropsy, where there is found an absence of albumen in the blood, and a deposit of that substance in the urine, have we not reason to regard this secretion as a messenger from life?

Nay, more: when we find that these alterations in the composition of both the blood and the urine, have been greater or less, according as disease has made more or less havoc upon the human system, have we not more abundant reason to *conclude* that this secretion is not only a messenger from *life*, bringing information from the field of strife; but that it is an *express* one, and an interpreter, also, of all the movements carried on between the contending parties—life and death?

PITTSBURGH, 1852.

Synopsis of the Proceedings of the Annual Convention of the E. M. Society of the State of New-York.

Pursuant to notice the Society met in the College rooms in the City of Rochester, January 14th, 1852, O. Davis in the Chair, L. C. Dolley, Secretary.

Convention called to order at 10 o'clock, by Dr. Davis. The minutes of the last Annual Meeting being called for, were read by the Secretary. On motion, were approved.

Remarks were made by the President, upon the necessity of revising the By-Laws of the Society. Drs. Preston and Hadley offered various reasons for the same. On motion of Dr. Hadley, it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to revise the By-Laws, and report as early as convenient.

Drs. E. S. Preston. W. W. Hadley, and L. C. Dolley were appointed said Committee.

Dr. H. E. Bowles and Mrs. L. F. Fowler were chosen assistant Secretaries. On motion, it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chair to report business for the Convention. Whereupon, Drs. P. C. Dolley, B. Patterson and L. Reuben, were named for said committee.

Dr. Reuben addressed the Convention. Regretted that many who were expected to be with us were prevented by the inclemency of the weather. He alluded to many interesting topics that were to be brought before the meeting of the Society, and thought that it would not lack in interest or profit.

Committee on business for Convention reported. Report received and adopted.

On motion, adjourned to half past 2 o'clock, P. M.

Afternoon Session.—Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Minutes of the forenoon session read and approved. An invitation was given those who were not present during the forenoon to take part in the proceedings.

The committee on the revision of by-laws, then reported. The preamble and the several articles were discussed and adopted, *seriatim*. Article Fourth, specifying the manner of calling, and time for holding Annual Meetings, and Article Eleventh, providing for the expulsion of members, elicited a spirited discussion, in which Drs. Reuben, Preston, Sabin, Dolleys, O. Davis, and others participated. It was thought highly important that the manner and time of calling meetings be sufficiently defined in the by-laws to insure a more general notice and full attendance; and to withhold all undue power from the officers of the Society; that none but reputable practioners, indorsing the principles of Eclectic Schools, be received or retained as members of the Society, and that in withdrawing from fellowship with any of its members, the course pursued by the Society should be every way democratic and honorable, giving such unworthy members written notifications of such contemplated action of the Society.

Remarks were made approving highly the brevity of the by-laws; that it was now unnecessary to turn over a folio volume to get at regulations and by-laws; that they were peculiarly clear and intelligible.

Upon motion of Dr. P. C. Dolley, it was

Resolved, That the Convention proceed to the reception of new members.

On motion, Drs. P. C. Dolley, Sabin and Fenner were appointed by the Chair, to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

Remarks followed, from several members, upon the necessity of more systematic and profitable arrangement of time and labors in the Conventions of the State Society—also upon the disposition of funds accruing from memberships, &c. It was suggested that all funds received from members over and above sufficient to defray the contingent expenses of the Society, be appropriated to PRIZES, to be awarded to those bringing before the society, at its annual meetings, the best essays upon medical topics.

Dr. P. C. Dolley, Chairman of Committee on Nominations, reported for President, Levi Reuben, for Vice President, Wm. W. Hadley, for Secretary, L. C. Dolley, for Treasurer, E. S. Preston.

The report of the committee was accepted and the individuals named, respectively elected. Dr. Reuben took the chair.

The President after alluding to the large amount of business that was to come before the Convention, and the necessity of expediting the same, called for an address from Dr. L. C Dolley.

Dr. D. addressed the Convention at some length, upon the DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF THE ECLECTIC PRACTICE, AND THE WANTS OF C. M. COLLEGE. Spoke first of the allegiance which had been paid since our Colonial history, among the leading members of the medical profession in our country, to the authority and practice of their trans-Atlantic brethren. Showed that their practice which shut from its sanction every remedial resource not emanating from foreign minds, had not met the wants of the people; that in the early Colonial history, as remarked by Dr. Douglas and others, it was "perniciously bad," and that "quacks abounded like locusts in Egypt," and that against the imported routine practice of bleeding, blistering, purging with calomel, vomiting and sweating with antimony—"in severe and protracted cases *repetendi*, and finally *murderandi*,"—the people continued to cry aloud and spare not, even to the present time. To cultivate medical science with greater liberality, and to more effectually meet the wants of the people, several colleges had been established in our country, and of this character is the institution now in operation in the City of Rochester, which stands second to but one Eclectic College in existence.

After showing the truthfulness of the principles upon which C. M. College is based, and the efficiency and zeal of its present corps of professors, he said the institution was yet in its youth, and felt much of the dependence of early life; it had not yet reached the age of self-reliance and self-support, and consequently has many wants. He then explained the several important wants of C. M. College, and the manner in which the friends of Young Physic present and abroad should meet the same.

The address was received with applause. After which the President remarked that the address which had been heard referred to several important items of reform, and plans for present and future action, and recommended that the Convention take action at this time upon these subjects.

On motion, the Chair appointed Drs. L. C. Dolley and E. S. Preston a committee to report on the college building.

Drs. Wm. W. Hadley and L. N. Jones, a committee for securing pledges and other aid for the Eclectic Journal of Medicine.

On motion, Prof. O. Davis, Prof. P. C. Dolley, and Mrs. L. F. Fowler, were appointed a committee to draft resolutions for the Convention.

Drs. L. C. Dolley, T. G. Horton and Mrs. M. K. Merrick, a committee on the practicability and manner of awarding prizes.

Adjourned to Thursday, 9½ o'clock, A. M.

THURSDAY FORENOON, JAN. 15th.—Convention met at 9½ o'clock, and was called to order by the President. Minutes of Wednesday afternoon session read and approved. Books were again opened for reception of members.

The committee on prizes being called upon for a report, offered the following:

Your committee on prizes recommend that a standing committee of five be appointed by this convention, to award a prize of $10,00 to the member who may bring before the Society, at its next annual meeting, the best written original essay upon any subject pertaining to medical science. Also a prize of $5,00 to the student in C. M. Coll., making the best proficiency during the spring session of lectures.

That said committee be chosen, two from the faculty of C. M. College, two from the students, and one from the resident Eclectic physicians in the City of Rochester, holding no connection with the College.

The committee recommend further, that prizes be also awarded to the second and third best essays, if the Committee deem proper.

Moved by Dr. Hadley that the report be adopted.

Remarks on the report followed from Drs. Hadley, A. K. Eaton, Clapp, O. Davis, P. C. Dolley, Acomb, Bowen and others, more particularly upon the propriety of limiting the subjects for essays to but few, or but one topic of medical science.

Dr. Davis offered an amendment to exclude the Faculty of C. M. College from competition for prizes. A discussion followed upon the democracy and justice of the amendment, upon parliamentary usages, &c. Amendment not carried.

Prof. Eaton offered the following amendment: That essays for prizes be sent in one month prior to the annual meeting, and the real name of the writer be withheld from the committee until after the decision. The amendment and the report adopted.

On motion, Drs. P. C. Dolley, Wm. W. Hadley, G. A. Carson, of Canada, Mrs. M. K. Merrick, of New Haven, and E. S. Preston were appointed a committee to examine essays and merits of students and award prizes. Dr. Carson and Mrs. Merrick to have voice only in reference to prizes upon essays.

Dr. Hadley said the Faculty would collectively decline entering competition for said prizes.

Committee on the Journal reported.

On motion, adjourned to half past one o'clock, to meet in the large hall.

L. C. Dolley,
H. E. Bowles,
Mrs. L. F. Fowler, } Secretaries.

[To be continued.]

Cases in Practice.

BY PROF. P. C. DOLLEY.

Messrs. Editors:—The student of medicine cannot become too familiar with difficult or rare cases of disease, nor can they easily be too frequently rehearsed before him, for upon his intimate acquaintance with them, must his success in their treatment largely depend. Dr. Johnson once said that the history of individual men constituted the history of nations, and to become well acquainted with the latter, we must make ourselves familiar with individual biographies. So it is with medicine. The student may make himself as familiar as he will with general principles, and have a score of authors committed to memory—yet if he has not stood by the bedside and studied out the characters of disease as he there finds them displayed,—or has not studied faithfully these characters as detailed by others, he will be ill prepared to properly perform the responsible duties of the physician. In accordance with these views, and in the hope of their proving useful in some degree, I offer the following account of cases in practice.

Case 1. In May, 1848, I was called to see Mrs. B——, aged 73, and found her confined to her bed with a dropsical affection. The account given by herself and family was that her health and constitutional strength had been remarkably good till within a few years, and that the first serious disturbance of either was in consequence of a fall from a wagon some years previous to my seeing her.

The fall occasioned some general soreness of the system, and in the course of a few months there appeared to be some uterine derangement—such as pain, and occasional uterine hemorrhage, &c. Simultaneously with these disturbances, or shortly after, there were some evidences of a dropsical accumulation, in the cavity of the abdomen, but not sufficient to excite any apprehension of its ever becoming troublesome. It continued to increase, however, till the time I saw her, and then she had been unable, for six months or a year, to sit up much of the time. Had taken but little medicine, save a blue pill occasionally, by direction of a neighboring physician, for "*enlargement of the liver.*"

Found her with the following symptoms:—Abdomen immensely distended, with what appeared to be a dropsical effusion, parietes very tense, some sensation of fluctuation upon percussion and palpition, lungs, heart, liver and stomach crowded very much out of their

place, excessive dyspnœa with pain in the region of the stomach and liver at every inspiration, constipation, occasional nausea, loss of appetite, small feeble and frequent pulse, with entire inability to sit up or help herself in the least. The kidneys were very inactive, and the skin dry and husky.

My diagnosis in the case was, that it was a dropsy, originating or dating from the time of the fall from the carriage—either complicated with the uterine derangement, or depending upon it. Owing to the excessive distension of the abdomen, and the character of the fluctuation, I could not say with absolute certainty that the dropsy was ovarian, but believed it to be such. An examination of the lungs and heart showed them to be in a healthy state, though functionally disturbed by the pressure, as also the stomach and liver. Considering the age of the patient, together with the strong probability of the dropsy, being ovarian and encysted, I could only promise to pursue a palliative treatment, calculated to relieve some of the more distressing and urgent symptoms.

Gave a thorough hydragogue, followed with tonic,laxative, and diuretic medicines, with repetition of hydragogues once in twelve to twenty days, abdominal bandage, bathing, light medicines, diet, &c. This course relieved the dyspnœa, pain at the stomach, &c., and contrary to my expectations, the hydragogues reduced the abdominal distension nearly one half, so that she was able to be about the room a considerable part of the time, during the summer.

Early in the fall it was evident, however, that the fluids were not only again collecting, but that they were of a different character, for there was no longer any distinct fluctuation, but a greater tension and hardness than had before been perceived. In November, a general anasarca set in—the skin of the extremities burst open, and was attacked at the same time with an erysipelatous inflammation, producing excessive pain, which with the other difficulties, rendered life almost intolerable. In a few weeks she died.

Autopsy—eighteen hours after death. The incisions were made very carefully through the attenuated walls of the abdomen, fearing there might be a sudden flow of the fluid within. But as the cavity was opened, only a little fluid, which was about the stomach, was let out; and as the contents were brought to view, an immense mass of conglomerated cysts presented themselves, firmly glued to each other, and to the walls of the abdomen. So firmly did they adhere, that the mass had to be dissected away before it could be removed. The mass was not measured, but judging from the point to which it filled a large tub, there must have been from ten to fourteen or more gallons. The cysts were of every size from that of a pea to those holding a quart or more, and were filled with a thick, glutinous fluid, so firm that it would nearly keep its shape when denuded of its membraneous covering. The color varied much in different cysts and in different parts—in some being of a pinkish red, in others yellow, while in the vicinity of the intestines and stomach it was nearly black. In some it was nearly as fluid as water. There was evidently more or less *Cholesterin in many of the sacs.*

These cysts had not only become adherent to the peritoneal surface of the walls of the abdomen and completely obliterated every trace of it, but had adhered to the viscera, intestines, stomach, liver, spleen and kidneys, as well as the diaphragm, so that if any one was examined, it had to be literally dissected out.

In the pelvic region they seemed to diverge or radiate from one point, and after dissecting this out, it was not till we had cut it through and traced out the cavities, that we discovered that it was the uterus. Judging from the character of the conglomerations radiating thus from this point, there was no doubt but the difficulty commenced at one of the ovaries. The liver was but about one-third or one-half its natural size, though healthy to all appearances. The lungs were so compressed as to bring the lower lobe of each up as high as the middle lobe of the right lung when in the normal position, and they were not more than half the natural size. Heart normal, excepting in place, as also the stomach and spleen.

The points of interest to me in this case were, First, In the diagnosis—as there had been some conflicting opinions given—my own differing from all the others, and

Second, In the anatomical condition shown at the autopsy. Cases of Ovarian dropsy in individual practice are comparatively rare, but one of so extreme a character as this is exceedingly rare, even among Ovarian dropsies. The conglomerated character of the cysts, with their thickened, glutinous contents, the general adhesion of the cysts to all the peritoneal surface, together with their changed and decayed appearance in many places, the shrunken liver and almost obliterated uterus, were all points of peculiar and lively interest to the physicians present, and afforded a fine illustration of many of the characters of this dreadful disease.

We have not room for the remarks upon the nature of ovarian dropsy, that we had designed appending to this sketch.

Case 2. Henry H——, aged 12 years—of a nervous, sanguine temperament, and good constitution—took cold by going bareheaded from a warm room to the cold wind, which produced a soreness and stiffness in the muscles upon the back part of the neck. The mother supposing it to be rheumatism, applied strong liniments for a day or two, when finding the pain worse and the health materially deranged, she deemed it advisable to call medical aid.

Saw the boy for the first time three days after the first symptoms were observed, and found him laboring under a high fever, with a hard bounding pulse, tongue coated with a white fur, urine scanty and bowels constipated. The pain in the back part of the neck was so severe, as to deprive him entirely of rest, and to cause the most intense suffering. There was considerable swelling, which extended from near the insertion of the Trapezius muscle, down to near the superior border of the scapula, and this was tense, hard and exquisitely sensitive.

Treatment.—Discontinued the liniments, and ordered fomentations to be alternated with poultices of Ulmus Fulva, and frequent bathing with alkaline washes. In conjunction with these measures, I gave a

cathartic of two parts, anti-bilious physic, and one of cream of tartar—a teaspoonfull every three hours, till a thorough movement of the bowels was obtained. After the operation of the cathartic, such diaphoretics were administered as were necessary to keep up a perspiration during the night. This treatment had the effect to mitigate the severity of the fever, and procure for the patient some rest—but not to arrest the progress of the inflammation.

In spite of all our efforts, for three or four days the swelling steadily increased, and his symptoms assumed more and more of a threatening character, till there began to be evidences of suppuration—which, however, was very slow in its progress. On the fifth day from the time I was called, I was obliged to leave town to be absent some time, and as the abscess was not sufficiently matured to be opened, I advised them to call another physician to watch its progress, till it should be in a condition to be lanced. This was done on the second day after I left, when about a pint of healthy pus was drawn from it—after which it seemed to do as well for a while as abscesses of that extent would be expected to do. Eight or ten days after the abscess was opened, I again saw the patient, and found a little healthy pus discharging from the opening—swelling all subsided, and everything about the neck indicating a favorable issue. But the tongue remained furred—there was no return of appetite, and there was a very rapid wasting away of flesh—so much so as to cause considerable apprehension on the part of his friends.

It was evident that there was considerable irritation of the system and constitutional disturbance—that the system was even sensitively vibrating between the powers of life and death; but the cause of this condition was not apparent. The abscess had formed, been opened, and terminated, as well as other abscesses do, and so far as could be discovered, there were no unpleasant complications. The matter was, however, soon unraveled. Soon after this a tumor began to make its appearance at the edge of the scapula, half way down from the superior border to the lower angle, and yielding to pressure as though it were imbedded partly beneath it. It increased so rapidly, that in the course of twenty-four hours after it was first observed, I deemed it best to puncture it, though there were but slight marks of inflammatory action. At this time too the patient was seized with a violent and distressing cough, for which there appeared to be no adequate cause till the new abscess was opened. About half a pint of healthy pus was discharged from this opening, and there seemed to be some evidence of its communicating with the first or upper abscess. Scarcely had this been emptied, however, before another one began to make its appearance just at the lower angle of the scapula, which I apprehended would have to be opened as the others had been; but while waiting a little for it to form more distinctly, the patient's cough suddenly loosened, and he expectorated freely the same appearing matter that had been discharging from the abscesses. Large quantities were thrown off from his lungs, and almost simultaneously with the expectoration, the lower abscess, which had been forming so rapidly, commenced subsiding, and soon disappeared altogether.

The orifices from both abscesses remained open yet, and although discharging but a trifle of pus; the patient could by holding his breath and making a respiratory effort, force out a considerable quantity of it, and with it a quantity of air in bubbles. This air evidently came from the lungs, and could at any time be forced out in considerable quantities at will, by this muscular exertion or effort at expiration.

The opening through into the lung from the abscess, must have been quite down into the lower lobe, else the last abscess would not have disappeared so soon after the communication was opened through.

During the time that these abscesses were forming, the patient had to be supported by tonics, and gentle stimulants, and a somewhat nourishing diet; and even with the best endeavors we were able to make, he declined rapidly in strength and flesh till hectic symptoms began to manifest themselves very distinctly. After he commenced expectorating this pus, pressure upon the region of the abscesses was made as well as possible; balsams suspended in mucilage administered internally, together with mild wine bitters, which were shortly changed for chalybeates, &c., were all the measures of treatment resorted to in his case. In three or four weeks from the time that the pus was first expectorated, it began to disappear, and in a few weeks more he was apparently well. It is now three years since, and he continues well, and is as rugged as any one of his associates.

Hydropathy for Females.

BY MRS. L. F. FOWLER, M. D.

This is truly an eclectic age. We can survey subjects in their every Protean hue, and elect for our own particular creed or tenet what appears to us to approximate nearest to the truth. May the day soon be shrouded in Cimmerian darkness, when one can wrap his garments around him, and, invested with the selfishness of his own particular creed, say to his brother, "stand aside, I am holier than thou. My faith is the *only* way of salvation." This feeling prevails not only in religious circles, keeping many from the way of life, but in almost every other association where humanity is linked together. The ranks of Æsculapius are not exempt from this narrow minded bigotry. Each different sect is firm in the faith of its progenitors, and declaims against all who wander without the bounds of their particular folds. The eclectic should throw off the shackles and trammels which have prevented the development and progress of so many of the adherents of the old faith.

"He should seize upon truth when 'tis found
Among his friends, among his foes,
On heather or on moral ground,
The truth's divine where'er it grows."

The Eclectic has a great advantage over the Allopath. He can weave into his faith and practice all the improvements with which the age is rife, without compromising his position; for by enrolling himself under his banner, he agrees *prima facie*, to burst asunder the

hide-bound opinions, the conservatism of the Ancients, and open his mind for the reception of new lights, and the unfoldings of science as they are presented from time to time.

In no department of medical science have there been greater improvements than in that of Obstetrics. It would seem as if the inventive genius of man had reached its maximum, and that nothing farther could be added or discovered.

This whole subject once involved in so much mystery, is now demonstrated in characters as plain as the sunlight. Even the development of the little ovum, though hidden from our Light, has been traced as minutely as its growth can be observed when it has emerged from its native cradle and lies before us from day to day.

Theories and speculalions abound. We have frequently to depend on these alone for the establishment of our belief. The only *certain* knowledge which we can gain, depends on *facts* which cannot be controverted. There is one feature of Obstetrical Science which has as yet claimed comparatively but little notice; and it is to this feature that I would call attention.

What matters it to the parturient woman in her hour of agony, when her frame is convulsed with untold anguish, such as no pen can vividly describe, to know that the Accoucheur understands the whole theory of impregnation, and could spend hours in describing the decidua vera, the vitelline membrane, the corpora lutea, or the tnnica granulosa. If he could but give her one idea by which she might mitigate her sufferings, it would be of incomparably more value to her than all the theoretical knowledge that he had been for years accumulating, and her gratitude would be boundless. But, poor soul! she thinks that a curse rests upon her, and that she must bear the heavy burden without a murmur. No wonder that we have so many weak, useless, dispirited women in society, who are bound to the earth with a concatenation of a thousand ills which unfit them for happiness, and make them appendages, instead of help-mates in the great battle of life. Facts prove that this curse can in a great measure be removed; that even delicate women can bear children with comparative ease; that the functions of impregnation and parturition are as simple as those of digestion and circulation.

Facts prove that if women obey the hygienic laws of their being, and observe a course of hydropathic treatment both before and after parturition, this end is attained.

Whether Hydropathy affords the best means of treating disease in general, is not our present purpose to argue; but with regard to the one subject under consideration, I can speak emphatically. Scores upon scores of instances can be cited, where the desired result has been obtained. A lady with whom I am well acquainted, gave birth to a child with but an hour's sickness,—which was not severe,—and without assistance. Her system had been previously fortified by sitz baths, general baths, exercise and proper diet for the important event. After a short interval she took a cold sitz bath, and three or four more during the day at proper intervals. The second day she was able to sit up in her chair. She did not lose her strength at all,

and in little over a week was able to take quite a long walk and perform almost as much as in her normal condition; all tendency to inflammation was counteracted by wet bandages. Many shook their heads and cried out "prolapsus;" but she used judgment, did not exert herself beyond her strength, and no evil consequences ensued.

Perhaps there is no system of cure that needs more judgment than the Hydropathic; and the chief reason why it is ever unsuccessful, is, because it is wrongly or indiscreetly applied. The case related is but one among a great many, and it is a correct type of what the majority would be, if all observed the great functions of their being. Do not say that peculiar conformation and natural organization were the causes of this happy event. These, I grant, may have been favorable; but cases could be cited where those who have had previously complex labors, have by Hydropathic treatment shortened their labors and sufferings at least one-half. These are *facts*, and facts are stubborn things.

When labors become tedious or powerless, where there is an inertia of the Uterus, Secale Cornutum, [Ergot] is recommended by most of our authors. At the same time, many cautions are given with regard to its use. If women could be induced to try Hydropathy, the cases would be very rare where the uterus would require a foreign stimulus to excite it to action.

There are various reasons why there is so much virtue in water at this period.

Bathing is always to be followed by friction; this of course calls into action the different muscles of the body.

Energy and resolution are encouraged by the use of water.

It gives activity to all the vital functions.

It promotes general circulation. If there be any torpor in the system, it removes it. It acts as a gentle diaphoretic to open the emonctories that noxious and extraneous matters may pass out through the cutaneous vessels. It excites the arterial and venous systems. It not only consolidates muscular power before parturition, but afterward it aids greatly to produce uterine contractions and remove inflammation.

All Eclectics should farther examine this subject. If you would relieve suffering humanity—if you would stamp on the cheek of woman the elasticity and vigor of youth—if you would have her preserve her buoyancy of step—if you would have her develop her mental nature—if you would have her bear healthy children with impunity to herself and her offspring—if you would abolish instrumental labor—if you would let Dame Nature assume the position that has been cruelly usurped by the Accoucheur, with all the paraphernalia of technicalities and instruments—if you would secure the deep and everlasting gratitude of millions yet unborn—study the healing balm of Gilead that Hydropathy unfolds, and the treatment of labor by its efficacy. Teach those under your charge that many of the evils so much dreaded are only in consequence of artificial habits, and are entirely unnecessary, and you will have advanced many steps in civilization—you will shed a halo of joy into the bosoms of many families—you will be blessings to the age in which you live.

SELECTIONS.

The Bed Room.

Physiologists tell us that the great process of REPARATION is principally performed while we are asleep, and that WASTE occurs while we are awake. These are all-important functions; one is as essential as the other, and they continually follow in the footsteps of each other. Nutrition builds and perpetuates the human structure, but disintegration tears it down and destroys it. A perfect balance of these offices constitutes health; a predominance, deficiency, or perversion of either constitutes disease. How important it is to us as mothers, teachers, and examples,—as women who reign supreme in the sphere of childhood, in the family sphere, and in the social sphere, that we maintain an equilibrium between these two fundamental processes of the system, that we preserve the dominion of health, and keep at bay the sly, insinuating enemy, disease. This we can do, for the benevolent cultivators of Medicine tell us that the laws and conditions of life are capable of investigation, of understanding, and of every-day application. How much we are indebted to the noble investigators of that mystic science—Life. How persevering, unyielding, and faithful they have been for centuries. Years and years elapsed before they learnt even the alphabet of the mysterious structure within us; but they *never* despaired,—their courage and faith seemed to have increased as the stream of time passed on; labor, study, and investigation succeeded each other,—went hand in hand, until they have nearly unraveled the living science: and we are justified in believing that ere long, this science will be so well understood by the profession, and a knowledge of it so generally disseminated, that it will be possible for us, and our duty, to give to ourselves and our children, forms which, for beauty, grace, and health, the world never saw. These persons of ours were made by an Infinite hand, and we must believe, if we can once obtain His plan of their structure, and His means for their development and continuance, that they will, for loveliness, attraction and worth, surpass any that ever appeared on earth. It is not wrong for us to give to our forms all the ornament and grace that our good Father intended for them; we have greatly marred and disfigured His last and fairest achievement, and it becomes us now, to give to it all that the science of Physiology will enable us. If we will but be true to the teachings of the body itself, our forms must embody taste, elegance, beauty, and ornament, and for so doing we shall receive the approving whisperings of conscience and the smiles of God.

In order to secure this object, we must pay particular attention to those habits which are our constant companions. The bed room

may be made our enemy or our friend, for there we beget habits and practices which lie at the basis of health; bearing in mind that the building, constructing, mending process, is carried on in sleep.

Of all places that we inhabit, the one which should be characterized for its purity, is the Bed Room. Purity of air, purity of room, purity of bed, purity of furniture, purity of apparel, purity of person, purity of mind, and purity of heart, should pre-eminently characterize the chamber of repose. There we enter, close the door, shut out all the bustle and activity of the day, to review the past day's labor; to examine the heart, to exchange mutual attachments, and to receive the favors of the pillow.

The following particulars will be found essential for the security of these objects, and the lady who practices them will preserve her rosy cheeks, her elastic step, and her sweet breath. Ventilation is to the sleeper what dews and sun-light are to the rose and the lily. Stale air is as unwholesome as stagnant water. The zephyrs should play as freely with the curtains of the bed as they do with the leaves of the garden; yes, fan the very face of repose, and feed the nostrils with pulmonary food, for they are loaded with aerial nutriment.

The entire attire of the day should be exchanged for a light, pure, loose night dress; native freedom must be allowed to the person while we sleep, if it is not while we are awake.

Feathers are ornamental and protective to the bird, but not to the bed, except in frigid latitudes and in pillows. Bolsters are sometimes useful to the asthmatic and the crippled spine, but *never* to the normal sleeper, for they deform the symmetry of the neck, shoulders, and spine, and abridge respiration. Fires and lamps in the bed room are imperceptible life marauders. Impure toilets, furniture, bed and bed room, are slow and silent robbers of health, plunderers of rest and sweet repose.—[*Genius of Liberty.*

Consumption and its Treatment.

BY IRA WARREN, M. D.

Consumption is of two kinds, tubercular and bronchial. The former has a constitutional, the latter a local origin.

The human constitution, as shown by Liebig, in his profound work on Animal Chemistry, is governed by two forces, the nervous and the vegetative. The former disposes the molecules to a state of motion; the latter is an antagonist power, and inclines them to a position of rest.

In vegetative life there is motion in one direction only, so to speak; that is, motion which tends to the opposite of motion, namely, rest. In vegetables, whose life is wholly under this power, there is no waste; for here, all ultimate particles, having once taken a place of rest, remain fixed and undisturbed. Hence in a tree there is *growth* as long as it lives. There is no power to break up and destroy.

But in the animal body, there is motion in two directions, or a circuit of motion. Particles which under the vegetative force have been put to rest, are perpetually being displaced by the nervous energy, and reduced to unorganized, amorphous compounds, to be burned in warming the system, or cast out by the several excretory processes.

So constant is the action of these two forces, that the human system has been compared by John Hunter to a whirlpool, into which the particles of matter are perpetually poured under the influence of the vegetative power, and out of which they are as constantly whirled by the nervous force.

A little reflection upon these antagonisms, as thus explained, will enable the reader to see that it is just when the vegetative force transcends the nervous, that the body increases in weight, and acquires that diathesis in which the blood-discs abound, and the tendency, if to disease at all, is to that of the inflammatory kind. It is the tonic or sthenic condition of the system. Nutrition is more rapid than destruction. New particles are laid down faster than old ones are taken up. Hence the body *grows*.

On the other hand, when the nervous force overmasters the vegetative, when the outward or centrifugal motion of the whirlpool prevails, then it is that the body is attenuated, the blood is made serous, and the consumptive, atonic or asthenic condition is established. *Now*, there is too much motion. The nutritive particles, instead of tending to a state of rest and deposit for the re-supply of waste matter, become fugitive in their habits, perpetually fleeing, like convicts escaped from prison. Introduce this power, in excess, into the vegetable kingdom, and the matter deposited upon the tree, instead of remaining to swell its bulk, would be driven off by the nervous force, and the tree, instead of growing, would be annually *lessened*, become sickly, and die of consumption.

In tubercular consumption, the system is like a field deluged with a flood; nothing can take root. The repeated shocks of the nervous battery sent to the absorbents, so quicken them in their work of removing waste matter, that they dislodge much which is not yet worn out, and assist in casting out of the system not a little designed to be used in its renewal. A healthy deposit is thus prevented, and nutrition is at an end. The nutritive arteries, those little builders of the human frame, are overmastered by the stimulated lymphatics; the constructive material is wrested from them, and borne beyond their reach, and the body wastes from want of nourishment. The blood becomes thin and watery; and from the increased serous portion, chiefly albumen, are deposited upon the lungs and other tissues the albuminous tumors, called tubercles.

Here is found the cause of that peculiar smallness of bone and muscle, and thinness and tallness of person, so characteristic of the tubercular consumptive. Here, too, is the key of those sharp features, thin lips, fine soft hair and small narrow chest, which speak so sadly to doating friends. The absorbents, under the power of a very active nervous system, take down "the house we live in" faster than

the nutritive arteries, confused by the motion around them, can effect its re-construction. It is simply an unbalancing of the antagonistic forces, which build and pull down the tenement we inhabit. The men that demolish are more numerous and better fed than the artizan builders.

It is this destructively nervous force of the system, which gives to tubercular persons their proverbial mental activity; which causes them often to dazzle the world with the splendor of their gifts, and to bless their friends with the warmth of their affections. They are usually the *choice spirits*—the idols of their relatives, and the favorites of the community in which they live. Of all persons they are best fitted to enjoy life, and to impart happiness. Loving all, they are by all loved in return. They are specimens of partially etherialized humanity, stepping lightly across the earth, to whom friends passionately stretch out their arms, and embrace—their shadows!

These views will appear the more reasonable, if we consider that in children, the vegetative, or power of constructing the system, is very active, while the nervous energy is comparatively weak. The preponderance of the former power over the latter, causes the rapid growth of children. The little arterial builders work faster than the lymphatic demolishers. Hence, although according to Lugol, "pulmonary tubercles frequently exist in early youth," and although post-mortems by others have revealed tubercles in vast numbers of children, yet comparatively few of them die of the disorder. Cases of tubercular consumption are likewise rare among persons advanced in years, in whom the nervous force is weakened.

But from the age of 17 to 35, when the vegetative power is losing something of its extraordinary activity, and the nervous force is showing its highest capabilities—then it is, as this theory indicates, that tubercular consumption does its dreadful work—then, that the outward whirl of this physiological maelstrom casts upon the shores of mortality so many thinned, exhausted and lifeless human forms. More than three-fourths of all who sink under this disorder, die between the ages just named. The brain, between these points of time, acquires its full size and force.

The persons exposed to *bronchial* consumption are generally of an opposite habit to those described above—having the nervous force, in health, well subordinated to the vegetative, the assimilation good, and the blood well supplied with red discs. They have usually a full habit, and an active circulation. The absorbents, and other vessels in the lungs, working in the midst of a large amount of caloric, evolved by an energetic respiration, often take cold, which brings on lung fever and pleurisy, and these lay the foundation for the ultimate destruction of the lungs. For the same reason the skin of this class of persons becomes diseased, and more often the inner skin, or mucous membrane, and most often that portion of the mucous membrane which goes down into the lungs and lines the air-tubes. It is inflammation of this which constitutes bronchitis, and which lays the foundation for true bronchial consumption.

The constitutional difference between the persons exposed to the two forms of consumption, appears to be this:—the tubercular type is usually attended, in its origin, by a tolerably good state of the digestive function, in connection with bad assimilation; while the bronchial form generally has its foundation laid in connection with bad digestion, accompanied, for a time, with healthful assimilation. In the former case the food is well digested, the pabulum is properly prepared, but the nutritive arteries, for reasons already stated, do not use it for the purpose of renewing the wasted tissues. In the latter case the digestion is often bad, the pabulum poorly elaborated; but the re-constructive vessels, under the control of a well-developed system of organic nerves, use it to the best advantage. In the one case there are good brick-*makers*, and lazy brick-*layers*; in the other the reverse.

It happens, however, that before the fatal close of the disease, tubercular patients usually become afflicted, more or less, with bad digestion, and bronchial patients with defective assimilation; so, that in the end, they present us with much the same class of symptoms. Starting from opposite poles in life's celestial sphere, they meet at the culminating point of death, and disappear under identical aspects of the heavens.

Treatment.—In the bronchial form of the disease, I have generally found that attention to the hepatic trouble, often present, exercise out of doors, cold bathing and friction, and the inhalation of the nitrate of silver and lycopodium powder, secures about all that can be expected—I was about to say, desired—from treatment.

The tubercular type of the disorder also indicates out-door exercise, with the bathing and friction. I am persuaded that these branches of treatment have received too little attention. The defective nutrition, as I have presented it above, is a condition which seems plainly to call for their vigorous use. The rapid breathing in phthisis creates a too abundant oxygenation of the blood—so much so, that the muscles, especially the heart, are usually *of a bright red.* To prevent the patient from being literally consumed, burned up by oxygen, the blood must be deoxygenated as fast as possible; and in no way can this be done faster and better than by invigorating the capillaries of the skin by a gentle sponge bath and brisk friction.

While there is a superabundance of oxygen in the system of a phthisical person, there is at the same time a deficiency of carbon. Hence the cold hands and feet, and the general inability to bear frosty weather. The little nutritive arteries, in these thin-blooded persons, stand shivering and torpid with cold, unable to perform their allotted function of nutrition. There is not fire enough in the system, and fuel must be had in the form of carbon. Hence one of the advantages of cod-liver oil. This oil, too, as carbon, devours the oxygen of the blood, and prevents *its* devouring the patient. This idea also explains the fact mentioned by Bennet and others, that in their post-mortems, they found the evidences of healed ulcers in numerous persons who had been *spirit-drinkers* while living. (1.) And Liebig helps the explanation by saying that alcohol, taken into

the system, circulates in a free state in the blood, and devours its oxygen. To which I beg to add, that the *malaria* of intermittent and bilious fever districts has been pretty satisfactorily proved to be an instable organic body, consisting of sulphur, carbon, and hydrogen, all of which have an affinity for oxygen, and would also devour the oxygen of the system. (2.) Hence consumption is not found in such districts.

As I am treating wholly of the chemical effects of remedies (and to this test all remedies must finally come), I will mention that Rokitansky considers the power of pregnancy in arresting phthisis to consist wholly in mechanically stopping the flow of blood through the lungs. And I regard atmospheric inhalation with the Ramadge tube as doing the same thing, by inflating the air-cells—thus pressing upon and flattening the venous capillaries, and lessening the amount of transmitted blood. (3.) I will add, that antimo. et pot. tart. steps in here and attempts to demonstrate the justness of its long-conceded remedial power in phthisis, by pointing to the fact demonstrated by Blake and Mialhe, that it *arrests the circulation in the pulmonary arteries*—thus giving a complete and luminous view of its power to prevent oxygenation. But I am obliged to detract *something* from its merits, by stating that it *also* retards the circulation in the capillaries of the system generally, and so hinders *de*-oxygenation. (4.)

But there is a therapeutic agent just now presenting itself to the notice of the profession, to which I wish to invite special attention. I refer to phosphorus. This agent seems to have more than ordinary claims upon our regard. It has challenged our notice in the shape of *phosphate of lime.* But this is *probably* because it has come without its chemically attested certificates.

Cerebric acid contains nitrogen and phosphorus, and is the peculiar component of the brain and nervous system. By combustion and the changes of oxydation in the brain, the phosphorus of cerebric acid is converted into phosphoric acid; so that every act of the brain produces phosphoric acid. How rapid, then, must be the consumption of the phosphoric element of the cerebric acid, in that highly active and excitable state of the nervous system which I have described as peculiar to phthisis; and how necessary, in order to save the brain from destruction, to meet this increased demand for phosphorus by introducing it into the system as a therapeutic agent.

Since writing the above, the London Lancet for December has come to hand, and in it I find Dr. Theophilus Thompson, in a clinical lecture delivered at the Hospital for consumption and diseases of the chest, expressing the opinion that the phosphorus present in cod-liver oil contributes some share to the happy influence of that remedy. He also starts the "inquiry, whether an additional supply of phosphorus, by attracting oxygen in the pocess just noticed, may not tend in consumptive patients to lessen the unfavorable oxydation by which pus is largely formed in the lungs." I think the inquiry can hardly fail of an affirmative answer.

Mulder regards the fibrin of the blood as the *carrier of oxygen;* and by this oxydation, the fibrin becomes converted into the binoxide and tritoxide of proteine—its phosphorus and sulphur (for it contains both) being converted into phosphoric and sulphuric acids. Adding phosphorus and sulphur, therefore, as therapeutic agents, would seem to be the proper way to supply the fibrin with materials destructive of its freight of oxygen.

The proposition before the profession now is, to administer, in case of phthisis, phosphate of lime; and no doubt this has been useful in several instances. (5.) But phosphate of soda would probably answer better, as the salt of lime is insoluble, and this substance would be converted into the phosphate of lime within the system, if it encountered any soluble compound of lime; and as this base is supplied in water and most kinds of food, the change would be likely to take place.

Here the subject spreads itself out beyond the limits of an article, and I must leave it, simply saying that I have now two patients rapidly recovering from the third stage of tubercular disease on the use of syr. of phosphate of manganese, freely administered with cod-liver oil. With these, I unite the inhalation of the nit. silver and lycopodium powder, and a very vigorous administration of the hygienic laws, in the form of exercise, &c. In the cases alluded to, and in others where a less rapid improvement is occurring, the manganese has displayed good powers for correcting the anæmia, while the phosphorus has seemed to meet the various indications to which the above remarks point.

I have thus attempted to draw the attention of the profession to a subject, which, to me, has a special interest. With a powerful microscope, and such aids as can be derived from the present imperfect state of organic chemistry, I have entered upon some investigations respecting the pathology of blood, urine, and other fluids and solids of the body; and though I can hope to accomplish very little, I may be allowed, perhaps, to invite the encouragement and co-operation of those who are farther advanced—feeling well assured, that to such investigations, prosecuted in the spirit of true philosophy by all who have the opportunity, we may look with hope, as the source whence most of the true progress of medical science is to come.—*B. M. and S. Journal.*

Boston, Dec. 18, 1851.

Remarks.—A truly excellent article. Interesting in style, liberal in tone, and highly valuable for its practical suggestions, it is well worthy of the space it occupies in our pages. Still, there are points in it not unexceptionable, and on some of these I claim the privilege of throwing in a *demurrer.*

1. Healed pulmonary ulcers have no doubt been found in the case of *spirit-drinkers,* but they are also found in persons whose tissues have not been shielded by such dangerous fuel. Dr. W. could have advised a safer substitute.

2. *Perhaps* a "previous question" remains to be settled—namely, is there in reality such a thing as *malaria?*

3. Are the lungs, then, and the chest inexpansible, so that enlargement of the air-cells *must* cramp the blood-vessels, and diminish the flow of blood through the organs? Is not the blood brought into the lungs by an active force, which will have room, even if it crowds the air-cells? Unquestionably; and the more air is inhaled, *the greater that force.* The benefits of the "inhaling tube" must receive some other explanation. Is it not true that by improving the capacity and efficiency of the lungs, it more highly vitalizes the blood, and prevents the accumulation of that superfluous albumen of which tubercles are admitted to be formed?

4. This fact detracts *all,* and the poisonous effects of the drug itself, throw the weight into the opposite scale.

5. Phosphate of Lime (bone-earth) cannot be decomposed in the system, so as to yield up its phosphorus for a re-combination with oxygen. Here must be a bad oversight. The substance in question, if useful in consumption, must be so in some other way. Probably this, too, acts by preventing an excess of albumen; or at least by exchanging it for good organizable fibrin, and building this up into more healthy and permanent solids. Nor can it be certainly known that Phosphate of Soda would be converted in the system into the corresponding salt of Lime.

Phosphorus is undoubtedly lacking in that condition of the body described above, as nervous or consumptive. It can be supplied best by the use of suitable food containing it. Consumptives crave oysters, and scrofulous and nervous persons, eggs, custards, and other rich dishes of this sort. These cravings are monitions from a failing fabric, and are to be judiciously indulged. New milk, fresh eggs, oysters, lobsters, &c., brains, (where relished,) custards, with healthy animal and vegetable oils, healthily prepared for the palate,—all these will furnish to the shattered nerves and wasting tissues their proper sustenance, and shield them from the devouring oxygen. These should constitute the food for such conditions, care being taken to use with these the *coarse bread* which will prevent too great concentration of the food, and keep the alimentary canal open and free; cod-liver, or neat's-foot oil, and phosphate of lime may be added when necessary. Let persons in a "decline," or troubled with "weak nerves" try this regimen, in connexion with temperance, exercise and general bathing, and the result cannot fail to be satisfactory in the highest degree. Now, brother invalid! you have pined long enough. Take hold, and renovate yourself. R.

New Remedy for Toothache.—Mr. James Beatson of Airdrie, says:—Gum Copal when dissolved in chloroform, forms an excellent compound for stuffing the holes of decayed teeth. I have used it very frequently, and the benefit which my patients have derived from it has been truly astonishing. The application is simple and easy. I clean out the hole, and moisten a little cotton with the solution; I introduce this into the decayed part, and in every instance the relief has been almost instantaneous. The chloroform removes the pain, and the gum copal resists the action of the saliva; and as the application is so agreeable, those who may labor under this dreadful malady would do well to make trial of it.—*Medical Times in Jour. Dent. Science.*

☞ A citizen of Livingston County, died a few days since of inflammation of the brain. During his last sickness his aberration of mind assumed the very singular phase of forgetfulness of substantive ideas. In his conversation he could employ all the parts of speech but *nouns*, and though he was not inclined to say much, yet he could express himself fluently, except in the use of words of the class named. These ideas he was obliged to omit, or express only by implication. An examination of his brain was made after death, when the following facts were elicited:—From the *dura mater*, or outer lining of the brain, an adventitious bone had grown which penetrated the brain and caused suppuration of the anterior and lower part of one of the lobes of the brain on the right side. This was the only indication of disease or loss. The foreign bone had no union with the skull. The fact is very singular, and the case is novel. Aberration of the mind. is attended with loss or forgetfulness of some class of ideas, but this case is anomalous from the fact that it was attended only by a forgetfulness of one class of *words*, for the person under consideration seemed to possess the idea denoted by the word, while the word itself was beyond his reach.—*Roch. Dem.*

Deteriorated Chloroform.—A complaint, well-founded, is loudly proclaimed, that the chloroform, or rather chloric ether, now generally manufactured, is inferior in quality. In short, much of it cannot be trusted to in operations. When the ether mania first commenced, and sulphuric ether was the only article in use, the surgeon could calculate upon its activity; but after a more agreeable agent was produced, which in a manner superseded ether, the demand became so enormous, that little cheats began to be detected, and from small beginnings, great adulterations are spoken of as a matter of notoriety. From Dr. Hayes, the celebrated analytical chemist, a paper has been received that will expose the imposition, and show how the inferior kinds are produced, and why they are tolerated in the drug market. Surgeons should be particularly on their guard, for great injury may be inflicted by the inhalation of chloric ether of bad quality—while rarely, if ever, are patients unfavorably affected by it if pure, and made according to a standard process.

On the Diagnostic Value of Pains in the Head.

BY DAVID NELSON, M. D.

[The following remarks occur as part of a clinical lecture on the morbid conditions of the nervous system. Speaking of headache, Dr. Nelson observes:—]

In the first place, we have to inquire regarding the existence of pain, and of what character the pain may be, for there is nothing that is more varied, or that indicates so many different conditions. It may be simply of a spasmodic kind, occurring at intervals of a greater or less duration; due to anæmia, or other causes of debility; to irregular transmissions of nervous force, or to that functional perversion of the sensific centres which is denominated hypochondriasis or hysteria. This pain is to be distinguished by its not being increased, but rather lessened, under exertion of mind or body, by the eccentricity of its visits, and by its being relieved by antispasmodics, stimulants, or tonics.

An organic pain will be fixed, and always aggravated under exertion, or any other stimulant, to the circulation; and may depend either on acute hyperæmia or passive congestion, or any of their results, from a solid clot to a simple effusion of serum. In the event of acute action, the pain will be of a darting character, with much heat of the scalp, fiery sensitive eyes, and great watchfulness, and will require abstraction of blood, mercurial purgation, and the application of cold. In passive congestion, or in effusion, the pain will be dull and heavy, with perhaps some heat of the scalp, but the eyes will be darkly suffused, the general frame less sensitive of external agents, and the sufferer will rather be inclined to drowsiness. The pain may further be of a rheumatic nature, depending on some especial determination of irritating urinary salts which may be retained in the circulation; this is to be inferred from the general history of the patient's constitution, from the presence of contemporaneous pains in the joints, and from the state of the urine. If confined to the external parts, as it commonly is, it will readily be removed by the ordinary remedies for rheumatism, but if it involve the brain itself, or its membranes, it is likely to prove as fatal and irresistible as other affections of that organ are known to be. The headache that proceeds from derangement of the stomach or bowels is commonly called a sympathetic one, arising from the immediate nervous connexions that exist between the abdominal viscera and especially the stomach and brain. At its first onset it will certainly be subdued in exact correspondence with the success which attends your treatment of the digestives, whether such treatment be directed to the neutralization of acids, or oils, or the single expulsion of any other irritating matter, or to the removal of hyperæmia. But it will certainly sometimes continue long after the stomach and bowels have been brought back to a tolerably healthy state of action, especially when the previous complaint happens to have been of very long standing. This is

especially illustrated in the hydrocephalus which supervenes as a secondary effect on the abdominal affections of young children, though it may perhaps be doubted whether the functions of any organ can ever be perfectly renewed after any protracted attack of inflammation, however mild. Another sort of headache is consequent upon very long fasting, or watchfulness, or mental effort, or any other cause of nervous exhaustion, and this of course can only be removed by nutrients and rest, aided by some stimulant, as very well instanced in the headache which succeeds a debauch, or excessive grief. I have already spoken of the heat of the scalp, of the appearances of the eye, and of the nature of the pain, as illustrative of the different forms of hyperæmia which may be suspected, but may also add that the condition of the tongue has a close connexion with such a state of things. Along with the bilious sympathetic headache, and that of congestion, we have a tongue thickly furred with white or brownish yellow; emetics are advisable for the first, but not for the second, if much straining be anticipated. In the nervous headache, and that which is concomitant with affections of the lesser bowels and colon, it is almost always clean, but entirely red; but as alteration of structure advances, the fur again returns, at first of a simple white, next a yellow, afterwards brown, and lastly a deep dry black. In the headache that accompanies certain enlargements and other affections of the liver, the tongue will be found of a bright pink color, moist, and of a glassy smoothness, either in whole or in part; or, on the other hand, it will be deeply fissured transversely.—*Prov. Med. and Surg. Jour.*

COMPOUND PILLS OF PODOPHYLLIN.—Take of Podophyllin, Scammony, Gamboge, of each in powder *one drachm;* triturate well together for half an hour; then add *half a drachm* of Castile Soap, mix and beat the whole together till they are thoroughly incorporated. Divide into one hundred and twenty pills.

This is a most valuable pill for all diseases, when cathartics are required, and has cured many cases of hepatic (liver) affections. The dose is one or two pills every night. They have no tendency towards producing constipation, but rather the reverse. * * * They may be used safely in all ordinary cases where purgation is desired; they operate freely and thoroughly, and usually without causing nausea, griping, or debility.—[*Eclectic Dispensatory, U. S.*

COMPOUND POWDER OF IPECAC.—Take of Pleurisy Root, Blood Root, Ipecac, and Nitrate of Potassa, (Nitre,) each, in powder, *one drachm.* Mix.

Useful in febrile and inflammatory diseases; a diuretico-diaphoretic. Dose, ten to fifteen grains every hour or two.—L. E. JONES.—[*Eclectic Dispensatory, U. S.*

HASTY BURIALS.—Those in our country who manifest such an *indecent haste* to give their friends up for dead, and to "bury their dead out of their sight," may take a lesson from the following fact:—"After the bell was tolled for the death of a child of Mr. Jacob Deiberts, of Schuylkill Haven, Pa., some doubts being entertained of its death, it was placed in warm water and restored to consciousness."—*Exchange Paper.*

EDITORIAL.

Monthly Gossip.

We live in a utilitarian age, in an age of democratic doctrines, and in *the* country of democratic practices. We live in an age both of progress and enterprise; and confess to being an integral part of that practical people whose general good sense and pecuniary philosophy alike prompt them to buy and pay for only that which is proved to be well worth their money. We know, at the same time, the laudable desire felt by our people to possess themselves of the best facilities for literary and scientific information, especially where such are comparatively cheap.

It is for these reasons the current volume of the Eclectic Journal of Medicine has been enlarged to its present size; and for these reasons no pains will be spared to fill its pages *full*, monthly, hereafter, with the best of original and selected matter. Improvements in the arts are cheapening knowledge, and scattering broad-cast the best of scientific books and periodicals. In this universal " downward tendency" of the means, and " upward tendency" of the demand, no one possessed of ordinary skill, energy, and industry, need enter the market with a second-rate commodity; and if any do, no one certainly is bound to bestow his patronage on such, when his money may secure a fuller equivalent elsewhere. These, indeed are but common principles of trade, and need hardly be mentioned.

The publishers of this Journal have not the arrogance to say, that in it, they are enabled to present the highest value for a given price; but they do confidently request a comparison of its *merits and available value* with those of other Medical and Health Journals in our country. Nor will their Editorial compeers, they hope, consider this allusion unkind; for they remember that they live in a land in which " competition is the life of business," and where he who advertises his wares, or, with a pardonable partiality, puffs them a little, may still shake hands with his competitors, and rejoice with them over the benefits conferred by an honorable rivalry on both dealer and consumer.

The publishers are far from claiming merit on the score of bulk alone. There are considerations of *personal weight* which seriously

disincline them to submit to any such test! Mere expansion is most likely to weaken and cheapen. But if by the requisite pressure of care and labor the whole of a greater mass be condensed to the solidity of a less, then, surely, the greater is more valuable just in proportion to its increase of bulk. A whole necklace of glass imitations would form a poor exchange for a single pearl; but a string of pearls would, nevertheless, be much more valuable than the solitary gem.

But let us put on a sociable air, and chat more familiarly with the readers of our pages. *We* cannot help being pleased with the appearance of our new Journal; and we find our judgment of it fully sustained by our patrons, with many of whom we have "talked, face to face," and with others by letter. Our monthly sheet has no longer that scrimped appearance which seemed, more than anything else, to remind one of a *starved idea*, hunting through the world for somebody to adopt it! nor that diminutive delicacy of outline which would lead one to think it intended to be read in dishabille by some sentimental Miss of sixteen, rather than to form the study of the Physician between his hours of arduous labor, and the text-book of the sensible family circle, seeking to learn the laws of health and happiness! Our more ample page has a generous and hearty look about it, as if the pens of "ready writers" were pushed with a stronger arm, and a better digestion; and our fair open type, the Surgeon has assured us, cannot help but be "good for weak eyes."

As a substantial proof of what our friends think of the new Journal, and a sample of what they mean to do for us in the future, we may mention the fact that a Committee appointed on the first day of our late State Convention, reported within a few hours *pledges to the number of near fifty new subscribers to the current volume.*

One more thought, and the "Gossip" makes his bow, to trouble the reader no more for a month.

The Editors of this Journal venture to entertain a hope that they are neither opposed to the spread of TRUE SCIENCE, afraid of its influence, nor disposed to despise and cast it away. Their task is a weighty and delicate one, and they shrink from its responsibilities. Yet they know that these posts must be filled, and that the greater danger is that they will be seized on by those who have not even a desire to stand as honest interpreters of Nature and Science to their fellow-men.

We hope, however, we are not opposed to true science, the truest of it, and the whole of it; for we believe that all true reforms are

built on it, and that they can best prove and honor their parentage by acknowledging, cultivating and diffusing it. Only despots and hunkers hate to look on the "latter-day" strides of Truth.

Neither are we afraid of any science or truth,—of the bearings of the former, or the demands of the latter. Yet it is sorrowful to recur to the fact, that there are so-called reformers, especially in medicine, who fear the tendencies of a higher and purer science, and teach that such are to be watched with a jealous eye. Happily, such are not so numerous now, as in the days of high-pressure "steam and Lobelia."

Neither would we willingly "sit in the seat of the scorner," and despise science as a thing of no account. Yet we well know there are those who are ready to take a high stand in favor of reform in the Healing Art, who are too prone to deify *natural abilities, good sense,* and sometimes *sense that is not so good,* and who turn science away as likely to be a detriment to the Healer, and as best fitted to be the weak amusement of abstract and chimerical minds. There are medical systems which might profit by a few lessons from Muller, Liebig and Carpenter; and Health Journals which would be received with more general favor, if their teachings took shape and color a little oftener from the admitted truths of Chemistry, Physiology, Pathology, and the whole circle of the Natural Sciences.

But our business is not to hunt for faults. We have merely introduced these thoughts to aid in "defining our position." If Physicians and people believe our sentiments correct, they will sustain us. If these are not fit doctrines for the noon of the nineteenth century, we will learn the lesson, and profit by it. R.

The Annual Convention.

In this number will be found a part of the proceedings of the third Annual Convention of the State Medical Society, which was held in our College Halls, on the 14th, 15th, and morning of the 16th inst., agreeably to the notice. Owing to the severity of the weather, and the almost impassable state of the roads, there were not as many present from abroad as we had reason to expect; but nothing discouraged, those who came together went at their labor with a zeal and energy that well bespoke the faith they had in the great principles of truth and freedom which they advocate.

Never have reformers in medicine, within our observation, shown at their meetings that they so well understood their great mission,

and the principles and plans of action necessary to accomplish it, as at this meeting. The time was not spent in labored eulogies upon themselves or what had been accomplished; but the great question was of the *future*—What can we do to render our system more perfect, to accomplish the most for its advancement, and to put ourselves in a position that shall tell for the best interests of the common cause? In accordance with this spirit, it will be seen that the labor accomplished was of a character which will make a marked impression upon Eclecticism throughout the State.

Among the many matters of interest, we would direct attention more particularly to the appointment of a committee, (which will appear in our next,) to co-operate with the Faculty in their movements in relation to a College Edifice, to the appointment of a committee on professional ethics, and to the movement consolidating the State Convention and State Society into one; also, to the arrangements effected for awarding prizes to members bringing before the Society the best essays, and to students making the best proficiency in C. M. College, and to several interesting reports which we hope to present our readers in subsequent numbers of the Journal.

The business was found too much to dispose of short of a third day's session, all of which was transacted with spirit, and the smoothness of clock-work. We trust its influence in giving character and system to our future labors, will long be felt.

For want of space, we are compelled to defer the publication of a good share of the proceedings until next month. L. C. D.

Inhalations in Bronchial and Pulmonary Diseases.

Every year's practice has given the writer increased confidence in the value and certainty of particular measures in the treatment of consumption, and other pulmonary and bronchial diseases. The article in the present number of the Journal, upon consumption, and its treatment, is regarded as highly rational, and as embodying principles of treatment more philosophical and correct than will often be met with in a space as limited. Our readers will all be interested and profited by its perusal, and will regard it worth many times the subscription of our Journal.

In conjunction with the measures advised in the article alluded to, the writer has much confidence in the inhalation of medicinal substances. Those resorted to mostly by himself have been the fumes of burning tar, balsams, etc. The experience of very many has de-

monstrated the utility of such topical measures. In view of the great extent of the mucous membrane lining the respiratory apparatus, and its powers of rapid absorption, many different vapors and solid medicinal substances have from time to time been recommended.

Dr. P. P. Middleton, brought to Philadelphia and introduced to the notice of the profession in this country about twenty years since, a machine to communicate certain powders—such as finely pulverized gum myrrh, cicuta, &c., directly to the diseased surfaces within the lungs. It is said the same or a similar mode of inhalation was adopted in Bath, England, as early as 1825, by which Cinchona, Sulphate of Iron, &c., were used.

It appears that M. M. Rogers, M, D., of this city, has given this subject much careful attention during the past few years. Valuable communications upon medicinal inhalations from his pen may be found in the Buffalo Medical Journal of June and July, 1849, and the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, the past season. Dr. R. expresses much confidence in the inhalations of tannin, kino, and acetate of lead for hemorrhage from the lungs—of nitrate of potash, lobelia, and ipecac, in dryness of the mucous surface, with tightness across the chest—of tobacco, morphine, and lobelia, in spasmodic asthma and tickling cough. During his recent visit to Europe, he suggested their uses to physicians in Paris, which, however, met with no very favorable reception. Dr. Landerer relates cases in a foreign Journal, of obstinate spasmodic cough and other affections treated successfully with segars, medicated with hyoscyamus and various other articles.

Professor Buchanan recommended highly in a lecture before his class some years since, the inhalation of medicinal substances in pulmonary diseases. These topical measures, though valuable, should be used only as auxiliary to the more important *constitutional* treatment. Many have laid too much stress on *local* treatment in pulmonary and various other diseases. L. C. D.

Monthly Medical Abstract.

A RIVAL TO COD-LIVER OIL.—Theophilus Thompson, M. D., F. R. S., Physician to one of the London Hospitals, claims to have used *Neat's-foot Oil* with marked success recently in consumptive cases. He reports cases far advanced, when expectoration and night sweats were profuse, with œdema of the legs and feet, extensive dulness upon percussion, amphoric respiration, &c., that

recovered or gradually improved in weight, strength, and in all their symptoms, so as to resume their labor. Dr. Thompson thinks that Neat's-foot and Cod-liver oils, are better adapted than other oils to the treatment of consumption, chiefly on account of their "agreeableness to the stomach" and greater "degree of aptitude for assimilation"—that both probably act similarly in combining with albumen, and assisting in the supply of the chyle granules which enrich the blood. He thinks that the presence of phosphorus in such oils may act favorably by attracting and uniting with superfluous oxygen, thus lessening "the unfavorable oxydation by which pus is largely formed in the lungs." As to the truth of this hypothesis, or another chemical one which would ascribe the efficacy of these remedies to the supply of carbon, which they afford for consumption in the lungs, we will not here attempt to decide. We do not, however, wish to be classed among those self-conceited and narrow-minded ones who cannot suppose any beneficial results from the use of these agents, and decry them as on a par with other "*humbugs*" and "other *soap-grease.*"

INDIAN HEMP, ITS POWER OF INCREASING UTERINE CONTRACTIONS DURING LABOR.—It appears from experiments recently made by a Physician in England, that the Indian Hemp possesses the remarkable power of increasing the force of uterine contractions during labor. He thinks it well established that its effects are more certainly induced and more energetic, but of not so lasting a character as those of ergot. Used in extract in 6 gr. doses—and in tincture, in doses of 10 to 30 drops. This article, it should be observed, is not the Apocynum but the Canabis Indica.

HORNS ON HUMAN HEADS.—(*Icthyosis Cornea.*)—A case of a horn successfully removed from a lady's head, measuring after its removal over 6 inches in length, and 3 inches in circumference at its base, is reported in the New York Journal of Medicine, by A. L. Sands of Cold Spring, N. Y.

CONCENTRATION OF MEDICINES.—Wilke of Erfurt, recommends the following new and useful manner of preparing medicinal powders:—Mix with saturated tinctures of cinchona or other medicines, a considerable quantity of crystalized sugar, after which, evaporate to dryness and pulverize. The medicines thus prepared are free from vegetable albumen, mucilage and other inert matter.

It is said that the Legislature of Massachussets will soon be petitioned to grant a sum of money for the Female Medical College of Boston.

D. Lenz thinks he has demonstrated, by experiments upon cats, &c., that the pancreatic secretion is not to saponify and assist more particularly in the digestion of the fatty portions of food.

An Iowa Medical Journal says: "The health of the past season has been generally good in the west. Doctor's purses have been growing lean. While Hygeia, the goddess of Health, appears to have been liberally dispensing her blessings, fever and ague has for some cause been scarcely heard of the past season."

The Plague.—This dreadful disease has made its appearance in Madeira, where its work of death has already been appalling.

The American Journal of Medicine, reports the case of a lady who took 36 ounces of chloroform in 14 days, and afterwards recovered.

Prof. Newton has made Collodion available in the treatment of hydrorachitis. Dr. Evans reports cases in the North Western Med. and Surgical Journal, of mammary abscess treated successfully with the same agent. Its utility in the treatment of burns, erysipelas, and small-pox, seems also well established.

Scarlet Fever is said to be fatally prevalent in Pennsylvania.

The Eclectic Dispensatory, by King and Newton, is now out of press, and may be had at our office.

At the Commencement of the Female Medical College of Philadelphia, held on the 30th of December, the degree of M. D. was conferred on the following ladies:—Mrs. Hannah E. Longshore and Mrs. Francis G. Mitchel, of Phil.; Miss Anna M. Longshore of Bucks County; Mrs. Angenetta A. Hunt of New York; Mrs. Martha M. Sawen of Boston; Ann Preston, Phœbe Way, and Susanna H. Ellis, of Chester County.

"Small-pox is raging fearfully in Jamaica."—*Boston M. and S. Journal.*

Dr. J. S. Kuchler of Lockport, N. Y., recommends highly the Sulphate of Alumina as a local application for mortification; to be applied to the parts affected in saturated solutions by means of five or six folds of cloth kept constantly wet. Speaking of it, he says:—"It is not excelled. Sulphate of Zinc dwindles into insignificance by the side of it. Constitutional treatment in connection is not to be neglected."

The class in the E. M. Institute in Cincinnati, numbers 125 students.

Paronychiæ (Felons) have prevailed in the City of Washington, the past Summer, as an epidemic. Prof. Hill states that an epidemic of the same character prevailed in Erie County, Ohio, in 1847.

Obstinate hiccough is said to be relieved promptly by two or three inhalations of chloroform. L. C. D.

A Few of our Exchanges.—Glimpse the Third.

"THE WATER-CURE JOURNAL."—This well-known monthly visitant, we find as interesting as ever. The articles in the last number headed "Spinal Diseases," "Hæmorrhages from Wounds," and "The Teeth," are highly valuable; and to the list, with a few trifling reservations, may be added that on the "Chemistry of Life." "A Colloquy" is rich, and by no means uninstructive; and the Miscellaneous Department, as usual, contains many fine things, and true thoughts.

We regard the Water-Cure Journal as an efficient co-worker in the cause of progress, and wish it great success. The Journal is published monthly, at $1 per annum. Address FOWLERS & WELLS, 131 Nassau Street, N. Y.

"MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER."—This spirited weekly continues to win "golden opinions." Practical men, and those who are better prepared to judge of some of its peculiar merits, have styled it "one of the best Agricultural and Family Journals" in our country. In its scope of subjects, it embraces Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic Economy, Mechanic Arts, Education, Natural History, News, Literature, and Humorous and Miscellaneous Reading. Its style and execution are highly creditable to the enterprise and good taste of the publishers; and it is well worth the subscription price asked for it, viz: $2 per annum. Address D. D. T. MOORE, Rochester, N. Y.

"NORTON'S LITERARY ALMANAC, 1852."—This pamphlet professes to contain "important literary information—accounts of American Libraries, Literary Necrology of the past year, and interesting facts and statistics, valuable to the Bookseller, the Librarian, and the Reading Man;" and a cursory glance seems to prove that it is all it pretends to be. *Readers* and *writers* will find it convenient and valuable. Price 12½ cts. Address CHARLES B. NORTON, Irving Book Agency, 71 Chambers Street, N. Y., who is also the Publisher of "Norton's Literary Gazette." R.

Female Medical Colleges.

All men grow older, in time! Doctors and Editors grow older. And I would venture to throw out a most respectful hint that possibly the *traveled* and really learned editor of that excellent Weekly, the "Boston Med. and Surg. Journal," is growing older, too! I would not so soon allude to the subject at the head of this article again, did not a most sudden and unexpected change of "position" like that I am about to refer to, seem to warrant a chronicling for future reference.

Being interested in a School of Medicine which admits *women*, equally with men, to a candidature for the qualifications and honors of the Medical Graduate, and feeling a little of that very natural pride which would fain repel the insinuation of being either the interested deceivers or the fanatical coadjutors of a few misguided minds among the female sex, the Professors of C. M. College naturally gave some attention to opinions of professional men on the important movement in which we were embarked. With a trifle, perhaps, of this hurt sensibility, I ventured a remonstrance against the opinion of Dr. J. V. C. Smith, as given not long since in the Journal aforementioned, to the intent that female medical students were but the "poor dupes" of designing Lecturers, who pocketed the fees, and laughed in their sleeve at the simple credulity of their victims.

What says the Boston M. and S. Journal *now* of Female Medical Colleges? The remarks I am about to quote, may be designed solely for the Allopathic Schools of Boston and Philadelphia, but we here must be allowed to appropriate a little of the gratification of the approval to ourselves, especially as, so far as known, ours is the only Medical School in which female students have the privilege of a Lecturer of their own sex. But hear the Journal:

"These [Female Medical Colleges] having been called into existence, *and the public sympathy being with them*, and the public voice resolute in its determination to sustain them, *the course that physicians are to pursue, is indicated.* [How naturally this logic dribbles from the pen of an Allopathic physician! The public "determination" is formed and cannot be bent: *ergo*, "our course is indicated."] They have *utterly failed* [of course it is admitted by this that they *tried hard*] to prevent their organization and growth, or deprive them of legislative protection. To obviate the greatest injury which may result from them, physicians may find it *expedient* to unite and make them as respectable as possible. In this way they may be saved

from becoming tools for knaves and unprincipled persons—those who care less for the public weal than for their own pockets."

Mark well these sentiments. It is everywhere instructive to behold how anxious are the "Regular" Faculty to shield virtue, adorn humanity, and protect the dear people from the designs of "knaves and unprincipled persons!" But is Selfishness solely an "irregular" vice, and knavery found only among quacks? Even were all irregular practitioners as bad as they are represented to be, it would be well to remember that "there is honor among thieves," and the same cannot always be claimed for so-called *honorable men!*

Again, how admirably do we find some men making a virtue of necessity! Hunkerism, in the nineteenth century has fallen upon dry places. It strives faithfully to "prevent" the consummation of a benevolent and progressive work; but when it finds the people resolute, it wheels into the line of march with what of grace it can, ready to forfeit even the jewel of consistency rather than leave the people to a trial of quackery and its evils. Who would have listened to the idea of Female Medical education twenty years ago?

The conclusion of the article already quoted from, displays much wisdom. The Editor says, "It is useless to fulminate anathemas, or work ourselves into a rage, and be laughed at for a senseless display of ill will, that would only exasperate *some of the best members of society* and fail of accomplishing any good purpose." Sure enough! Let us rather shake hands with the "Spirit of the Age," and keep pace with his march, than resist until we are overpowered, and then be dragged in chains behind his triumphal chariot. The far-seeing, high-minded and philanthropic of the people are firm friends to the cause of Female Medical Education. Hence it must sooner or later prevail: *how soon*, is to be determined more by the character, energy and professional qualifications of those females who first enter the field of active practice, than by all the open or disguised opposition of any medical schools or authorities. R.

Miscellany.

PERSECUTION OF MEDICAL REFORMERS.—The day of open persecution of medical men for opinion's sake, has, in our country, almost passed away. Not so, however, among our neighbors over the lakes. Dr. Cheffey, now a member of the class of C. M. College, and who has been practicing for some time in Canada West, was chosen out last Fall, it seems, to be made a "terror to evil doers," *i.e.*, a warning to *irregular Practitioners*. Dr. C. was compelled to

leave for home about the middle of our lecture term, to attend court; but the "*criminal* cases" having been deferred to the Spring Assizes, he soon returned. The charge brought against him is that of practicing "as a Physician, Surgeon, and Midwife—for fee, gain, and the hope of reward!" It is very evident, therefore, that had Dr. C., after having found "a better way" than Allopathy, been so philanthropic as to practice his system gratuitously, and purely for the good of his kind, (as who would not, if he could afford it?) no fault would have been found, and even the LAW would not so much as have turned to growl on him. But when he takes money from the pockets of hunkerish pride, then look out!

A resolution of sympathy with Dr. C. was passed at our late Convention. He cannot fail of having the sympathy and well-wishes of all his brethren; and in all human probability, the jealous competitor of the Allopathic School, who could not bear to witness his successful career, will find in the end that he has "caught a tartar," and only secured friends and practice to the object of his illiberal persecution.

Query.—Why is it that our Allopathic brethren have never thought to wait and let *the people*, who are so preyed upon by "quacks," do the prosecuting in these cases? Surely, it is rather delicate business for the Doctor to prosecute, without being quite sure whether the people care to be so protected or not! Is it because the people are so "ignorant" that they cannot be trusted even to take care of themselves? Well, thanks to the spirit of the age, they are to know something by and by! R.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.—Some inquiries having been sent us concerning our present volume, we proceed to reply.

The present, and future volumes of the Journal, will contain *twelve numbers* each. A monthly periodical like our own, commences and ends, most naturally, with the year; and it was with a view to secure this desirable arrangement that the change at the close of the first half of the third volume was made.

For the short (*third*) volume, of course only half the yearly subscription price is asked. One dollar sent for Vol. III., therefore, pays for the same, and for one-half of Vol. IV.; or, the sum of $1,50 pays for the third and fourth volumes entire.

As the size of the Journal hereafter, will be larger than formerly, and will not admit of binding with the past volumes; those who have the latter can get the first *two-and-a-half years'* numbers bound in one, or in two volumes, as suits their fancy, and they will then be prepared to keep the larger volumes by themselves.

We can furnish the back numbers complete, as far as to February, 1850, but no farther. Several complete sets of back numbers from that date to the close of Volume III., are on hand, which we shall be glad to forward to any one desiring them, and sending us the cash.

We shall take great pains to forward, free, copies of all *missing single numbers* to any of our friends who may be desirous of completing the volumes in their possession for preservation. Send us word what numbers are wanting from Feb. 1850, inclusive, and we will make your volumes good.

Those who desire to remit us *fifty cents* for the third volume, or the latter half of the fourth, as the case may be, can send this sum most conveniently by investing the money in *postage stamps*, which may be inclosed in a letter.

Persons getting up Clubs, will please send us bills or checks on Banks that are unquestionably good, and which have a *par value* in this State.

PRIZES TO AGENTS.—Our friends will allow us to call their attention to the prizes mentioned on our cover for the *greatest* and *second greatest* number of *new (paid) subscribers* sent us by any one person, acting as a Local Agent, during the year. The books offered will make a fine addition to the library of either the medical or non-medical reader, according to the selection made. They will be sent by mail or express, at the close of the volume. Our books will be kept in such a manner as to indicate the number of new subscribers, and by whom sent, and the award will be impartially made. Now friends, you have all the time and opportunity. Who will secure the prize?

THIRD ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION.—By an oversight in getting out the call for the Third Annual Convention of the State Eclectic Medical Society, the meeting was designated the *Fourth*, and the error was not discovered until after the notice had gone to press. It is now too late to rectify the mistake, which, however, was one of no material consequence.

HYDROPHOBIA.—The excessively cold weather of the present winter is well calculated to develop this frightful disease in dogs, if, as is generally supposed, *cold* is one of its producing causes. We have heard of no cases in this region, however, and yet it may be well to have a prudent care of the *whereabouts and whatabouts* of our canine fellow-creatures! A letter from Stockholm, dated Nov. 30, states that during a season of excessive cold, a number of dogs went mad, and several persons had been bitten. More than twenty had died of the disease. Beware of "mad dogs!"

☞ With this number we send to many of our subscribers an announcement of the Spring Course of Lectures in C. M. College. Those interested in the advance of Scientific Medical Reform, may lend important aid in securing Students for our Spring Session. B.

ECLECTIC

JOURNAL OF MEDICINE.

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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Eclectic Physicians and Colleges.

An Introductory Lecture, delivered in C. M. College, Nov. 3d. 1851,

BY PROF. L. C. DOLLEY.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 52.)

What are some of the leading features of the Eclectic faith as advocated by our Colleges and Physicians? I will present a few of these in detail.

A cardinal feature in our movement is that *Eclectic Physicians should be thoroughly educated in all departments of Medical Science.* Anatomy, Physiology, Theory and Practice, Surgery, Midwifery, Materia Medica, Pharmacy, Chemistry and Forensic Medicine are each presented by competent teachers in Eclectic Colleges. Several of these departments are taught in a manner differing in no way from that of the old schools. In Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Chemistry and Botany, we follow strictly the standard text books used in the leading Colleges in America. No one would accuse us of asserting to any considerable extent new theories in these departments. True, the discoveries and researches of Buchanan in Cerebral Physiology are developed and fully taught, only in Eclectic Schools. It is principally to improvements in Theory and Practice, Surgery, Materia Medica and Pharmacy that we owe our claims to superiority. A full and thorough knowledge of the other departments is given as in other Medical Colleges, and also of these, much modified, extended and improved.

I believe that another important feature of Eclecticism is, that *its philosophy is inductive.*

There are two different methods which have been pursued in investigating the physical sciences: they may be called the *synthetic* and the *inductive* methods. The synthetic method constructs from a few assumed principles a hypothesis from which is attempted an explanation of all the known facts of any science. This method was pursued generally by the ancients in their investigations of all the sciences. The vague philosophy of the alchemists affords a fit illustration of this mode of reasoning. Men of the first rank and talent in science became blinded by the imaginary philosopher's stone, and were voluntary slaves for centuries to nothing but dreamy chimeras.

It will be remembered that one grand hypothesis of the ancient chemists assumed there were but four elementary bodies: earth, air, fire and water. Various changes and combinations of these were made to explain every phenomenon and transformation in nature. But nowhere can we find more striking illustrations of the fallacy and insufficiency of the synthetic method of reasoning, than is afforded by the history of medical science. Through its whole progress innumerable hypotheses are seen rising and falling in almost as rapid succession as the clayey tenements of those who propagated them. Scarcely any feature of the medical profession seems more prominent through its whole history. This is not to be greatly wondered at when we reflect that there is so much in hypothesis particularly attractive to the human mind, and most have supposed that heralding forth nicely constructed theories indicated true genius, and those higher attributes of the mind which command admiration and respect.

In any but the mathematical and other exact sciences, to trust in and be guided wholly by theories and speculative opinions, will as surely bring disappointment as the rainbow and aurora are scattered by the fleet wings of time. The principles discovered by Pythagorus, Euclid, Kepler, Copernicus and Newton are fixed and unchanging through all time. The laws of numbers, of light, and the movements of the heavenly bodies are immutable. The relation of the squares of the sides in a right angled triangle ever have been and ever will remain the same. The light which Newton's prism spread out in a beautiful spectrum was the same that first dispersed the darkness from the surface of the great deep, and the suns and stars move on from age to age unchanged. Not so with medical science, which has to deal wholly with frail man, whose existence is limited, whose organization and vital forces are often defective, vary as the changing wind, and are influenced in every manner by errors in education and habits.

"In investigating the physical or natural sciences, which include medicine in all of its departments, we should stand upon the broad basis of the *inductive* or Baconian philosophy. The basis assumed by the inductive philosophy is to take nothing for granted; to admit

no proposition in science to be true, until it has been demonstrated by experiment; to suspend our reasoning about causes, and to verify effects; to abandon mere suppositions respecting the operations of nature, and to set ourselves patiently to observe what those operations are. According to the inductive philosophy nothing is to be gained in science by assuming as true any point which is doubtful, or not susceptible of proof. Science implies knowledge, not conjecture or opinion; to entitle any department of human inquiry to the rank of a science, it is necessary to collect together clearly established facts, and by fair and legitimate reasoning to deduce those useful truths which naturally flow from them. So long as we pursue this course in our reasonings they are strictly scientific; but the moment we deviate from this line, they are no longer such. These principles cannot be too frequently or too austerely inculcated, especially in an inquiry like medicine, every deduction of which affects so deeply the welfare of society."

Instead of governing our practice by any predetermined theory, and being content to follow implicitly in the wake of some professional luminary, we call no man master; and discard no principle or maxim in medicine which observation and experiment have deduced from the great storehouse of facts. We acknowlege that several very important principles have been developed in the Homeopathic, Chrono-Thermal, Thomsonian and other fragmentary systems, but do not allow the more recently developed principles of any one of these systems to so dazzle our eyes that we cannot receive light from others also. Without conforming our practice to the dogmas of any exclusive sect, we profess to cull from each only those principles and measures which bear the surest impress of TRUTH. In the freedom afforded us by our inductive philosophy, we can listen to the testimony of each and every system without supposing any one tells "the whole truth and nothing but the truth." We strive to shun old errors and abuses, and practice in accordance with such principles as have been developed and demonstrated by the most careful cultivators of medical science in Europe and America.

Thus it will be apparent that another distinguishing feature of our system is—*its teachings are Eclectic and untrammeled.*

It has cast off all shackles of individual peculiarities, and merges the most valuable resources of the many fragmentary systems, into that which is destined to present itself in the might and strength of a universal science, harmonious in its several departments and all of its essential features. Every system of practice, the philosophy of which is synthetic in its character, has in this itself mighty barriers to all liberal views and independent action. Allopathic haughtiness and hunkerism have erected walls about a large share of the profession, which serve to restrict their practice to measures purely orthodox. No such hindrances exist with the members of our liberal and Eclectic system. We believe it is vastly important that those who are intrusted with the health and lives of the people, should fully understand, as far as possible, ALL of the remedies and appliances suited

to the cure and prevention of deseases and injuries, and the alleviation of human suffering. We believe no barriers and no restrictions exist to prevent us from separating, wherever found, on every hand, the wheat from the chaff, and the diamonds from the mud and exuviæ with which they are mingled.

Another very important feature in the Eclectic system is—*its teachings are practical.*

It must be apparent to all that, as our philosophy is inductive, and not merely theoretical and speculative, allowing that we possess ordnary good sense and judgment, our doctrines must be practical.—Many teachers of medicine have become infatuated with particular theories, and are completely carried away with certain investigations wholly unnecessary in practical medicine and surgery. Some seem intent only upon discovering the relations of cholera to the deflections of the magnetic needle, and electrical changes. Treatise on treatise has been written to demonstrate that all of the bones of the body are *vertebræ.* There have been anatomists "who have attempted to prove that there was a most accurate resemblance between the bones of the face and those of the extremities; that the squamous process of the temporal bone was an excellent representative of both the os scapula and the os ilium; that the ptergyoid process of the sphenoid bone was a fac-simile of the clavicle;—that the malar bone exhibited all the parts and processes of the humerus, radius, and ulna; and lastly, that there was to be found in the upper maxillary bone a perfect representative of all the bones of the hand, with the exception of those of the thumb, the representative of which was furnished by the inferior maxillary bone!" However absurd and ridiculous this appears, it is true of several great men and profound anatomists, such as Mickel, Demeril, Burdin, and Keilmayer, who spent months and years of their lives in such unnecessary speculations. It is unnecessary to multiply instances farther; and suffice it to say Eclectics have not found time, nor have they the disposition, to spin out to any great length philosophic threads too fine for the fabric of practical utility. We think medical science avails so far only as it conducts to good remedies and a certain cure. However much some hypotheses and speculations are to be admired, we cannot stop to fondle and play with their soft charms, but dismiss them for that which is more available at the bed-side.

I have yet to speak of the most distinguishing feature of the Eclectic system—*It is pre-eminently safe and successful.*

To stay the ravages of grim death, and to alleviate human suffering, is the high and noble mission of the physician. The surest way to accomplish this, should be the aim and object of all medical attainments. After you have passed through your Collegiate course, and established yourself wherever you may, either amid the hurried populace of our cities, or on the more quiet western plains, your lot and toil will be cast among the afflicted and disease-stricken portions of the human family. These will every where be found far less anxious about your medical pedigree and articles of faith, than your positive capabilities for restoring them to health. They will

feel much more interest in the intrinsic worth of your principles and measures, than in the institutions and the men from which you obtained them. Upon the truthfulness of your knowledge, and the positive worth of your medical resources, will depend wholly your success, your reputation and your fortune.

We claim that Eclectic Colleges, though laboring under some disadvantages, possess superiorities over institutions advocating other systems of practice. The superiority of institutions as schools of useful instruction, depends upon the truthfulness of their principles as well as the talents, zeal and the devotion to their duties, of the professors connected with them. That the Eclectic resources possess superior efficacy is very evident from the unparalleled success and patronage of our practice, wherever represented by well-informed practitioners. Superior success and merit will secure confidence and esteem under the most adverse influences. Though surrounded by a well organized and formidable opposition, and the marks for calumny and misrepresentation, our physicians every where, even when young and inexperienced, meet with a full share of patronage and public favor. I can refer to many who in a constant practice for one, two, or three years, have not lost to exceed two or three patients intrusted to their care.

The success of Eclectic practice is almost incredible to those who have not witnessed it; under Eclectic treatment cholera has been disarmed of its terrors. The ratio of mortality of Allopathic treatment to that of Eclectic, has been ten to one. Out of 1503 cholera patients in Cincinnati under Eclectic treatment, there were but sixty-five deaths. This is but four and one-third per cent. According to reports of both European and American writers, the mortality of Allopathic treatment has ranged from fifty to sixty per cent. The Boston Medical & Surgical Journal in speaking of cholera says "Physicians must every where confess that they do not yet understand the character of the disease. *Only a moiety recover* out of the millions who have been attacked." Hundreds of statements like this might be quoted from allopathic writings to prove that allopaths have little or no confidence in their treatment of this disease. Under Eclectic treatment, this much dreaded disease has been found very manageable in every part of our country.

The superior success in hydrophobia is not less marked. The latest and highest authority, Dr. Watson of London, acknowledges that all that European allopathy can do in this disease, is to mitigate the sufferings of the patient, and give him an easy death. He expresses a belief that a case of hydrophobia was never cured by art or nature. Abundant testimony can be adduced to prove that by scutellaria, lobelia, the vapor bath, and other Eclectic resources, it has been cured in numerous instances.

I need scarcely tell you that in scarlet fever allopathic physicians usually lose from one-fourth to one-half of their patients. Yet Prof. Morrow used to tell his class that they need not lose to exceed one case in each hundred. An Eclectic practitioner who might lose one

case in ten of the most malignant form, would consider himself quite unfortunate. There are very many who have never lost a single case in an extensive practice. Bilious, intermittent and puerperal fevers, inflammation of the lungs, &c., so often obstinate, fatal, or of tedious convalescence under allopathic treatment, are usually speedily and happily disposed of by every well informed Eclectic.

The superiority of Eclectic resources in female diseases, in fistulas, ulcers, hemorrhoids, liver complaints, dyspepsia, &c., gains for every Eclectic practitioner many triumphant laurels and ardent friends.

The allopathic treatment of cancer as expressed in the London Medical Gazette, June, 1844, "is null at the present period. Surgeons operate, and when patients refuse to submit to the operation, they tell them there is nothing else for it. However all agree that the operation does not cure; it does not even prolong life. Subjoined is the proof.

From a return addressed by M. Leroy D'Etoille, it appears that out of 1192 patients who had not been operated upon, 18 lived more than thirty years from the commencement of the disease; while of 801 who had been operated upon, 4 only were living after the same lapse of time.

There survived from twenty to thirty years after the development of the disease, 18 operated upon, and 34 not operated upon; from six to twenty years, 88 operated upon, and 228 who had undergone no operation."

This is the allopathic Gazette's own story, and may be relied upon as not exaggerating the worthlessness of Old School treatment in this disease. I presume Butler's observation was similar, I therefore do not blame him when he said

"Men are brought to worse distresses
By taking physic, than diseases,
And therefore commonly recover
When the doctors give them over."

Hundreds of cases of successful treatment may be repeated by Eclectics. Under Eclectic treatment a large majority of cases are cured without the use of the knife.

True all of this bears a little of the spirit of arrogance and boasting, and let me assure you ladies and gentlemen, a certain amount of confidence, of *brass*, if you please, is necessary for the furtherance of every reformatory movement.

(To be continued.)

HYDROPHOBIA.—Three or four cases of this fearful disease have been recently recorded by Drs. SIDNEY, JAMES STRUTHERS, and REDFERN. The anatomical investigation was in all as unsatisfactory as the treatment was unavailing. A French physician professes to have cured himself by a vapor bath at a high temperature.

On the New Physiological Doctrines of a New Physiological Era.

A Report before the Convention of the E. M. Society of the State of New York, Jan. 15th, 1852.

BY PROF. L. REUBEN.

In behalf of the Committee on Physiology, I beg leave to submit the following Report:

Physiology, which we now know to be wholly unattainable as a science, except through a correct knowledge of Anatomy, (among other important channels,) was yet, without doubt, among the earliest of the medical sciences attempted by the human mind, and quite probably the parent of Anatomy itself, at the first.

The reason of this is, that the *use and operation* of any complex fabric is the first query that arises in the mind of the looker on, whether the child, the savage, or the *savant*; and it is in order to decipher this at the first unseen *use*, that he is stimulated to inspect the workmanship, the parts and the connections, the *structure and substance* of the fabric.

But through false modes of reasoning, and imperfect means of investigation, this "first" medical science, in interest and in time, soon became "last" in development, correctness and value. In an age when men took "earth," "fire," and such like, for their material elements, and assumed forces at pleasure, which they did not even feel called on to demonstrate, little could be expected of the sciences on which they were to be the artificers! With such cultivators of Physiology, it was natural enough that the centrifugal vessels of the circulatory system should be *arteries—air-holders*, or conduits for the animal spirits;—and that the pineal gland, a minute nervous mass located deep within the brain, and commonly found filled with the grit of a deposite of lime, should constitute the seat and throne of the soul.

For centuries after the age of the Greek theorists, Physiology lagged behind her sister sciences, shamefully as they themselves were behind their time, purpose, and possibilities of progression.

"The blood circulates," said Harvey, in later times, "it is not motionless, but circles swiftly through the entire body." The whole world, the wisest as well as the weakest, set up a scornful laugh at Harvey; and most of them immoderately laughed on till he died!

What would our Physiology be now, without a circulation of the blood? What good of digestion and absorption,—what possibility of of secretion, or excretion, waste or renewal, bodily heat or mental activity, without the swift interchange of commodities that takes place through this pervading medium—the "high seas" for the entire commerce of life? But there have been new doctrines introduced since Harvey's time, that have left a broader mark on Physiology than did even the announcement of the "circulation of the blood."

Within the first half of the present century, and more especially within the last twenty years, there have been made such accumula-

tions of new facts, such unexpected applications of known principles, and such deep-drawn and comprehensive generalizations, that it is no longer proper to say of Physiology, it has been *advanced*;—we must say it has been *revolutionized*; and that in place of an *improved* science, we have in it a *new-born* science, and one of which the capabilities can hardly yet be realized!

I need not attempt to define the period of exact time from which the new era in Physiology is to date. Like all great changes it was long in preparation through the researches of a more philosophic set of minds, and gradual in its consummation when it came. Indeed we may say the consummation of the change has not yet arrived.

We shall be able, however, better to fix the commencement of the new physiological era in discoveries and doctrines, than in dates.

In order to set these new *discoveries and doctrines* in a clearer light, allow me first to inquire, *to what sources* are we indebted for the physiological progress of the present? The answer is:

1. To the Microscope,
2. To Organic Chemistry,
3. To TIME, and the evolution of mind and science which always accompanies the lapse of time.

I. FIRST, then, what have microscopical examinations done for Physiology?

The bare use of the microscope is not a recent improvement. The instrument was employed upwards of two hundred years ago, and even then upon human and other animal tissues. But the more skillful use of the more perfected microscope, is quite another matter, and belongs wholly to the present century.

Previous to the use of any such aid to human vision, the closest physiological observer saw only the coarser forms of organized matter, and the larger organs, and these, as it were, in the mass, and without the most distant conception of their real minute structure. Liver and kidneys were easily seen, but not the fine tubes and cells in which their actions go on. Muscles were visible enough, but not their ultimate fibrils and cells, and still less the very phenomena of contraction. Hence, of the real nature of secretion, muscular action, and in fact all the operations of the economy, the physiologists of that day must have been almost hopelessly ignorant.

The microscopes first used, were simple, or at best of low magnifying power, and besides, owing to a natural property of lenses then uncorrected, in refracting light they also decomposed it, and so dressed up every insignificant object the observer chose to examine in all the dyes of the rainbow, changed its color, or altered its shape, and sometimes played sad pranks with the staid and quiet particles of lifeless matter, setting them to dancing and capering so that they frequently lost all character, and got classed among animalcules!

The microscope was gradually improved, however, until at length the introduction of achromatic lenses, together with the high degree of perfection to which the grinding of the lenses was carried, removed all deceptive colors from the field of vision, and showed the

object in its proper color, shape and character. The magnifying powers of the instrument, too, have been vastly increased; and now, the delighted investigator of physiological science, seated in his study, with his microscope at hand, and aided by the micrometer, (or measure of minute spaces,) discovers a muscular fibril the twenty thousandth part of an inch in breadth, according to *accurate* and reliable measurement, and, more wonderful still, actually detects *structure*, lines and shades, parts and proportions, within this almost incorporeal body!

In the origin of the science of HISTOLOGY, we see the first grand result of the use of the microscope.

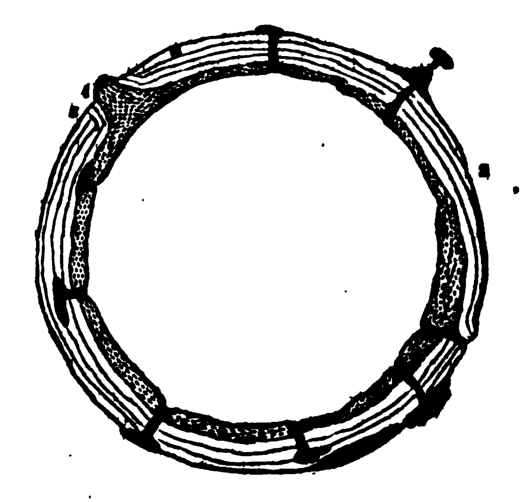
The old Physiology knew nothing of *tissues*,—the ultimate forms of organized matter,—the delicate textile threads and minute molecules, which, variously woven and aggregated together, form the human fabric. We, on the contrary, have already become quite well versed in the shape, color, aspect and general qualities of capillary tubes, nerve tubes, filaments and fibrils, blood-corpuscles, cells, nuclei, (cell-kernels,) and nucleoli, cell-germs, granules, and "germinal spots," so that we are in contant need of a mental microscope to bring bodies so minute somewhere within the limits of conjecturable dimension, and save that swimming of the brain one must feel who ventures too near the brink of the precipice of "infinite divisibility." I would not be understood, however, that all these tissues have been yet traced to their minutest forms, and satisfactorily delineated.

The influence of a correct Histology upon both Anatomy and Physiology, cannot be measured. The muscular fibril fairly displayed, reveals in turn the true *modus operandi* of muscular action; and so the cells unveil to our eyes the processes of secretion, the capillaries expound to us the laws of nutrition, and the isolated nerve-tubes point significantly to the true agent of mentality.

But Histology is valuable in other departments. In Pathology it is teaching us the actual nature of those changes in the structure of organs which constitute disease. In demonstrating, too, that all morbid growths, as tumors even when of a cancerous nature, are really composed of essentially the same cells and fibres as go to make up the healthy organs in a healthy state, it reminds us, not to pay too much regard to structure and matter, but to take into the account those yet undefined and undiscovered, but omnipotent FORCES, which rule all matter, and give shape to all science and history!

(To be continued.)

ENEMATA.—These applications, familiarly known as injections, have a much higher value in the treatment of disease than is commonly realized. In Diarrhea, Dysentery, and Inflammation of the Bowels, as well as in all fevers, the simple injection of *tepid water*, (say at 60°—80° Fah.,) is productive of very great benefit. In the two first named cases, administer freely after every evacuation, and let the patient keep quiet as possible. In the other cases, give regularly once in 1 to 4 hours. B.



Revelations of Geology.

BY PROF. A. K. EATON.

There is one *volume*, of which no *duplicate* exists, one *book*, so written that it may be "known and read by all men," of whatever tongue and clime—a work of which but one edition has been published, because it was impossible for it to be "revised and improved"—only one copy struck off, for that one sufficed for all the nations of the earth. For about six thousand years it remained a sealed book, unknown though lying within the reach of all. But, almost within the recollection of the present generation, the time-honored clasps have been broken, and the "History of the earth since the dawn of Time," has been opened to the perusal of mankind, by the developments of Geological Science.

The geological structure of the earth may be appropriately likened to a printed volume. Every layer of rock is a *leaf* upon which is imprinted, most indelibly, the physical history of the times during the era of its deposition. There we read of revolutions; of the rise and fall of dynasties; of the extirpation of whole races, and the occupation of the depopulated districts, by new and strange beings. Every page is amply "illustrated" by the most beautiful design, engraved "in the highest style of the art." *Lithographs*, they are, of most wonderful perfection.

There we read of the "chaos of all night" when darkness and inextricable confusion seemed to rest upon the earth, and vast continents were entombed in the deep. There, of the dawning of a brighter era—the birthday of worlds, when continents rose from the deep, and the rejuvenated face of Nature smiled again. The history of the changes that have taken place upon our planet since "the beginning," are registered upon tables of stone, and we have only to examine the

inscriptions beneath our feet, to learn that history. Neither is the study as complicated as it would seem; for the rocky strata are laid down with the regularity of mason-work, and we have only to examine, successively, the different tiers—from the foundation to the cope-stone of earth's masonry, to see by what successive steps this rock-ribbed planet was built up.

Though these formations are, in themselves considered, of immense thickness, yet, when compared with the diameter of the earth, they dwindle to the merest shell, and we learn that we are continually walking upon a crust so thin, that it is no wonder, if ever and anon, our precarious foundation heaves, cracks, and violently vibrates to the movements of the billows of volcanic fire beneath.

The engraving represents an *ideal section of the earth*, or, rather, that portion only which is known to be solid; the *crust*, as it is called. The inner, open portion of the cut is intended to represent that portion of our planet which is supposed, by many geologists, to be occupied by *melted matter*. The solid shell, however, which enwraps this molten mass, is by no means as thick as here represented. The cut being so small compared with the size of the earth, it is necessary to represent the different parts of the crust disproportionately large.—If we were to strike a circle of three inches diameter upon paper, the *pencil work* bounding the circle would represent the thickness of the solid shell of the earth, while all within the line would represent melted mineral matter.

The opinion of some of the first geologists in the world will sustain us in the assertion that, probably, the *crust* also was once as liquid as is now the molten lava that spouts from the hot lips of the volcano, overwhelming villages and cities with its fiery flood. The whole earth, from center to circumference, once glowed with an intenser heat than art or science ever can reproduce. A few facts, briefly stated, will show the grounds upon which this view of the present and former condition of the earth, is based.

1st. The shape of the earth—that of an *oblate spheroid*—indicates that it was once, at least, *semi-fluid*, if not in a condition of perfect fluidity, for a revolving body cannot assume such a shape except when in a soft, plastic condition.

2nd. *Heat* is the only agent that could produce this effect. and this agent is not only sufficiently powerful to render the earth liquid, but even to convert the most refractory substances into invisible vapors and gases. Assuming, then, that this planet once existed in a molten state, it must follow that the continual radiation of heat into space would eventually cool down the surface of the globe until a solid crust formed, and this crust would gradually increase until, on account of its thickness and bad conducting power, the radiation would almost or entirely cease. Thereafter the outer shell would remain almost invariably the same in thickness for ages, cloaking the glowing central fires. We may safely suppose, then, that with the exception of a thin, rock-wall, our planet is yet in a state of intense fusion, and will remain so.

But the shape of the earth is not the only argument in favor of the supposition of original fluidity and present internal fusion. The *temperature* of the earth's crust, at different depths indicates with great certainty the existence of intense heat, at a moderate distance below the earth's surface, and many of the overlying rock formations exhibit evidences of having been once in a fluid condition through the agency of heat.

In the upper portion of the figure on the left hand, we have represented a mountain mass of the crystalline rock called *granite*, which has evidently been forced up from below, bursting through the overlying rocks and rising far above the general level of the earth's surface. The crystalline character of this rock, and its general appearance, indicate that it has been in a state of fusion. The different dark masses that are represented as being forced up through the granite, and between the different strata above or overlying the whole, must have existed in a liquid state at the time of their upheaval, and, which is better evidence still, melted rock is even now thrown up through the throat of the volcano, showing the condition of the central contents of our earth. Lastly, we find an increase of temperature as we penetrate the earth's crust, amounting to about one degree for a descent of 45 feet. This is determined by taking the temperature of mines, caves, wells, &c., at different depths.—If this increase should be uniform, at a depth of a few miles the heat would be sufficiently great to fuse most of the refractory metals, and at a still lower depth every known substance would become liquid by the intensity of the heat. We may safely infer, then, that the solid crust of the earth is much less than *fifty miles* in thickness, so that the *shell* of the earth is proportionally thinner than an *egg shell*.

(To be continued)

Synopsis of the Proceedings of the Annual Convention of the E. M. Society of the State of New York.

(*Concluded from page* 61.)

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JAN. 15.

Convention called to order at half past 1 o'clock by the President. Minutes of the forenoon session read and approved.

It was thought best by the Convention to receive reports from Standing Committees before the report from the Committee on Resolutions.

The Committee upon Surgery being called upon for a report, Dr. L. C. Dolley made remarks upon the recent uses of Collodion in the treatment of mammary abscess, erysipelas, burns, hydro-rachitis and chilblains—upon the uses of Glycerine and the Otophone for deafness—and also upon the therapeutic value of hot water for reducing acute ophthalmia and other local inflammations, and of arterial compression in connection with the same for inflammatory affections in the extremities; spoke of Jarvis's Adjuster, and recommended Eclectics to compete fearlessly in surgical practice.

A highly interesting report followed upon Physiology from Prof. Reuben, in which he portrayed in his usual lucid and forcible style the "New physiological doctrines of a new Physiological Era."

Prof. O. Davis followed with remarks upon his department.

Like many other reformers, he said, he had imbibed a strong prejudice against the use of Ergot, and even when he thought it *was* indicated, had employed it very cautiously and sparingly. Now he employs it more freely and with benefit. Occasionally the uterus fails of maintaining and continuing labor pains, giving rise to either *Tedious* or *Powerless* labor. If the delay is continued in the propulsive or second stage of labor, very unfavorable symtoms arise. If there are no obstacles to prevent the natural termination of labor, he would then use it. It sometimes affects the child unpleasantly, probably by interfering with the materno-fœtal circulation, if the contractions of the uterus are incessant and vigorous for too long a time before birth. He does not apprehend that Eclectics will be likely to make too free use of it. On account therefore of this effect upon the child, would not use it unless the ordinary reflex modes of exciting the uterus fail. Make an infusion, combining with it "composition" or macrotys and allspice. Had used the wine of Ergot in Hemorrhage after parturition with beneficial results, and so have thousands of others; but all this experience has not removed the prejudice which many reform physicians have erroneously imbibed. Had used it in powder combined with cinnamon—and also the wine tincture in Menorrhagia with benefit. In atony of the uterus and passive hemorrhage it is excellent. Have observed it, in 1 or 2 instances, when it had been used with unwarrantable freedom, to produce *lameness*, and inflammation of the cartilages of joints. Can not say positively it was solely attributable to its use. These observations need farther confirmation. Its strength is very variable; considers the wine of Ergot most reliable.

The Committee on Theory and Practice being called upon to report, Prof. P. C. Dolley spoke at some length upon the advantages in practice of the concentrated medicines, and upon the classification of diseases. Alluded to the evils resulting from the fact that many names in the old nomenclature give no definite idea of the real pathological conditions. Gave his views of the nature and relations of typhus, enteric, and several of the inflammatory deseases. A discussion of some length and much spirit followed upon the relations of febrile and inflammatory diseases. Drs. Preston, Reuben, L. C. Dolley, and others participated. Dr. T. B. Clapp followed with remarks on dysentery.

Moved and adopted, that Dr. Clapp be invited to report for the Eclectic Journal of Medicine his views and treatment of Dysentery.

Remarks were then made by several upon the propriety of holding the Convention another day. In favor of the same it was remarked that the Convention was increasing in interest and profit and that several important questions remained yet to be discussed.

Dr. Clapp made an appropriate speech upon the great lack of courtesy and honorable deportment he had witnessed among practitioners and urged the propriety of the Convention's establishing a suitable Code of Medical Ethics by which practitioners may be governed. After remarks by the President and others upon the advisableness of another day's session, Convention adjourned to Friday 9 o'clock A. M.

FRIDAY FORENOON, JAN. 16th.

Convention met pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the Vice President,—Dr. Reuben being absent.

Minutes of Thursday afternoon read and approved.

On motion of Dr. L. C. Dolley, Drs. S. T. Teall of Lockport; Shattuck and Tilden of Buffalo; G. A. Carson of Canada; H. B. Steele of Conn.; G. H. Preston of Rushville; T. B. Clapp; S. O. Gleason; H Halsted; E. W. Sabin; and L. N. Jones, were appointed a Committee to co-operate with the Faculty of C. M. College in the necessary steps for the erection of a College Edifice.

Dr. Clapp moved that a Committee of three be appointed to report to the next annual Convention a Code of Rules to govern the individual members of the State Society in their professional intercourse with each other and affix to the same such penalty or penalties for their transgression as their good judgment may dictate. Such report like other reports to be subject to the farther action of said Convention. Dr. Davis advocated the resolution.

Dr. L. C. Dolley moved that the resolution be so amended as to refer to intercourse with members of the profession of medicine in general—thought he had seen manifested too often with those who would advance the best interests of medical science, a want of conciliatory feeling; said he would rather see manifested towards all a pacific and honorably courteous conduct than hostility or contempt.

The amendment was accepted.

Dr. P. C. Dolley made remarks advocating the resolution, and read comments by J. V. C. Smith in the Boston Medical & Surgical Journal on the death of the late Dr. Rogers, urging concord and harmony of action. Resolution adopted. Drs. T. B. Clapp, and P. C. Dolley were appointed said committee. Remarks followed from several members upon the use of Ergot as recommended by Prof. Davis in his report. Dr. Preston said he had treated over three hundred obstetric cases without a failure, and had never used Ergot. Had occasionally resorted to macrotys, &c.

Dr. Clapp reported a case of its use by himself at the instigation of another physician, in which the child was born dead, and the mother died of peritoneal inflammation.

Dr. O. Davis said he desired to call the attention of members of the Convention to the virtues of Hyoscyamus. His attention was particularly directed to its availability as a medicine in 1847. In conversation with Drs. Heath and A. H. Davis, he learned they esteemed it a very valuable anodyne and sudorific. In 848, Dr. B. S.

Heath called the attention of the first National Eclectic Medical Convention to its medical properties, which elicited remarks from Profs. I. G. Jones, A. H. Baldridge, and T. V. Morrow. He, Dr. Heath, recommended its use in cases of Asthma, Pleurisies, Nervous Irritation, Muscular spasms, &c., and in severe cases of after-pains. He proposed that 20 grs. of the extract be dissolved in four ounces of water, and one or two teaspoonfuls be given every 10 or 15 minutes, discontinuing it as soon as the pain abates.

Since that time, Dr. Davis remarked, he had used it with happiest results, not only in cases of a nervous character, but in cases of active inflammation.

Mrs. W.—case of Puerperal peritonitis—the patient had been attended by an Allopath, and had endured heroic treatment. When he saw the patient she was vomiting—abdomen tympanitic, lower extremities flexed; adominal tenderness extreme. Child 3 or 4 days old. Pulse small, quick, features sharp. Gave solution of Hyoscyamus freely, dissolving 30 grs. to the ounce of water—dose a teaspoonful, adding as near as he could judge ¼ of a grain of Morphine. Directed a mustard sinapism to the abdomen. This relieved the distress and vomiting, and in a few hours gave a cathartic of Castor oil. Symptoms abated and patient recovered.

Mrs. G., of this city, is a similar case, he treated nearly the same way, when Dr. E. W. Sabin was his partner in business, and who saw the good effects of Hyoscyamus.

Dr. Davis remarked that he was now treating a case of peritoneal inflammation—superseded an old school practitioner—found the patient harrassed with vomiting spells, and deathly sickness, very uneasy, respiration hurried, pulse rapid and tolerably strong, skin very little moist at times, severe headache, abdomen bloated but not excessively tender, &c.

Used Hyoscyamus in solution, 40 grs. to the ounce. Dose a teaspoonful, to be repeated once an hour until it produced some dilatation of the pupil of the eye, which it did after using 3 or 4 doses. Then gave ¼ grain of Morphine—and made warm applications to the abdomen. Next day symptoms were all improved, gave a cathartic; afterwards applied counter-irritants to the abdomen. The patient is now convalescing.

Had used it as an anodyne in Whooping cough—made a solution 10 grains to the ounce and gave it uncombined—at other times with the acetic tinc. of Macrotys Racemosa, Liquorice root and Lobelia.—Had employed it at other times in cases of pulmonic irritation both for its anodyne and sudorific effects.

He said he had frequently employed it in acute inflammations of the lungs, with good results, as some of the present members of the class can testify. Used the Hyoscyamus as an anodyne in these cases, also as a powerful sudorific, and can employ it safely in large doses. In the case of Miss B., just referred to, he remarked he used, as near as he could judge, nearly 40 grains of the extract in solution with one ounce of water, and gave nearly a teaspoonful once an hour, until doses had been taken. Used also cloths wrung out of hot water

and applied to the chest, sinapisms to chest and feet, &c. This treatment subdued the urgent symptoms in a very short time. It is also an excellent remedy in Dysmenorrhea, when combined with other anodynes and utero-ovarian stimulants. Combined with tinc. of Macrotys it is an excellent remedy. He used it freely—was not a dangerous, poisonous remedy in skillful hands—had found it excellent in inflammation of the Pleura combined with some nauseant.

Dr. Davis said he had within the past two years, used the sub-nitrate of Bismuth quite freely and was pleased with its effects. It appears to possess mild tonic properties—does not disagree with patients suffering from Gastro-intestinal diseases. Had employed it in cancerous disease of the stomach—it allayed the burning and distress as well as vomiting when other remedies failed. Had employed it in dysentery to allay gastric disturbance with good effects.—Found it an excellent alterative, and frequently combined it with Podophyllin or Leptandrin or some milder or more powerful evacuant as the case required. Had used it uncombined also, and can speak highly of its cholagogue properties. Had employed it as a tonic, and combined it with the cyanuret of iron and cinchonia; also with quinine and piperine; had sometimes used it alone as a tonic, but it proved more acceptable in combination as a tonic and cholagogue. He made these remarks, based as they were upon not the most limited experience, to call particular attention of Eclectics to its useful properties, believing it ought to be more frequently and generally used.

Dr. Preston and others followed with remarks upon the utility of hyoscyamus and certain other medicines. Dr. P. spoke of using the Phytolacca Decandra, continuously as an alterative, and as a remedy for venereal and other diseases.

Prof. Hadley spoke at some length upon the properties and uses of the Phosphate of Lime, Podophyllin, and Sulphate of Maganese.—

Prof. Eaton spoke of the adulterations and impurities of Phosphate of Lime, and of simple methods for detecting the same.

Prof. O. Davis exhibited to the Convention a specimen of foetal monstrosity and submitted a paper upon the "Laws of Foetal Development."

Remarks followed upon the present condition and prospects of liberal medicine in various sections of the country, by Drs. Carson of Canada, Horton of Ohio, Waugh of Conn., and Bowles and Jones of Vermont.

The committee on resolutions reported the following which were adopted.

Resolved, That the cause of medical reform can never triumph, or succeed generally, till its advocates take a more united, noble, and dignified stand.

Resolved, That as reformers we cannot depend upon the superiority of our practice alone for the success of our cause, but must show our claims to public confidence by the depth of our scientific researches in Physiology, Pathology, Anatomy, Chemistry, &c.

Resolved, That we will use our influence in elevating the character of the medical profession, by encouraging young men of superior

talents to enlist in our cause, and to procure a thorough course of medical training.

Resolved, That we disapprove of the recommendation of the Old School National Association which encourages the lengthening of the lecture term: that instead we would advise each student to attend at least three terms of sixteen weeks.

Resolved, That we recommend those who have undertaken the authorship of scientific text books for medical reformers, to complete them at a period as early as possible, to meet the pressing wants of our practitioners and students. On motion

Resolved, That this Convention deeply sympathize with Dr. R. S. Cheffcy of Canada West in the circumstances of unmerited persecution for opinion's sake under which he is now suffering.

On motion the Convention gave a vote of thanks to the President, for the very satisfactory manner in which he had discharged his duties.

A report was then heard from the Treasurer which was accepted. Upon motion

Resolved, That the proceedings of the Convention be published in the Eclectic Journal of Medicine.

Convention then adjourned to meet in the city of Rochester on the third Wednesday in January, 1853.

L. C. DOLLEY,
H. E. BOWLES,
MRS. L. F. FOWLER, } Secretaries.

SELECTIONS.

Human Warmth.

Our power of adaptation to cold climates is no less remarkable than the resistance of heat. In the voyages of Parry and Franklin toward the north pole, the thermometer was frequently as low as 55 or 58 degrees below zero. Captain Back reported it as low as 70 degrees below zero. In such an atmosphere, we must generate an enormous amount of caloric to sustain life. Every minute we are required to elevate at least 300 cubic inches of air from the temperature of the surrounding atmosphere to that of our own bodies.

To adapt the constitution to a cold climate, it is necessary, not merely that we should adopt a nutritious diet, and an active mode of life. It is necessary to understand that our adaptation to such a climate depends upon the full development and stability of our calorific powers. To develope these powers, and give them stability of action, they must be regularly and vigorously exercised. The exercise of our calorific powers is just as essential for their strength and development as the exercise of the legs to qualify us for locomotion.

I speak now, not merely to those who expect to encounter a severe winter. I propose to lay down rules of the highest importance to all for the maintenance of vigorous health. The development of calorification is essential to a vigorous constitution. The general testimony of history goes to show that races of men inhabiting cold climates, and consequently possessing high calorific energies, have excelled those of warmer climates in force of character and physical stamina. Our own experience every year teaches the same—as we become relaxed and indolent in the heats of Summer, but revive in the cold breezes of Autumn, and the bracing cold winds of Winter. How signal the contrast between the hardy hunters facing the north-west blasts of our prairies and forests, and the inhabitants of northern Africa, southern Italy, or Hindostan, shrinking within doors, and lolling in spiritless oppression under the influence of their scorching or sultry southern breeze—their Harmattan or Sirocco.

What causes the general difference of tropical and northern races? What causes the morbid languor of those who inhale the equatorial breezes, and the resolute hardihood of those who face the Hyperborean blasts? What but the difference which they produce in the rate of burning of the lamp of life? The difference in the energy of the calorific functions, which blaze in the Northman like the fires of his hearth, but which die out beneath the fires of a tropical sun? If such are the contrasted effects of cultivating and of marring the calorific powers, it becomes a matter of the highest importance in the hygienic training of every individual, to bring his calorific powers up to the hyperborean standard.

Not only is this necessary to vital force and efficiency; it is still more necessary to the preservation of vigorous health. A large, very large proportion of all our diseases are produced by the impression of cold upon the surface of the body. A host of inflammatory diseases, colds, fevers, disorders of the lungs, bowels, kidneys, &c., are traceable to the operations of that single cause—the application of external cold. Why? Is cold legitimately a morbific agent? Far from it. Its legitimate influence—the influence which it always exerts upon a healthy and well managed constitution, is the very opposite of disease. It is tonic and tranquilizing to the nervous system—diminishes excessive and morbid sensibility—braces the muscular system, and stimulates the respiration and circulation—increasing the calorific powers to such an extent, as to leave a glowing heat long after the exciting cause has been removed. Why then should this universal tonic—this bracing stimulant, be so frequently a cause of disease? Simply because the constitutions to which it is applied are debilitated by improper habits, and cannot display a healthy reaction, or because it is applied in too partial and irregular a mode, disturbing the balance of a delicately organized system.

When the vital and calorific energies are in full play, the application of cold serves as a grateful stimulus to accelerate and invigorate their play; the circulation is increased, and heat is developed wherever the impression of cold indicates that it is necessary. But when cold is applied to a feeble constitution, no such reaction is developed.

The blood-vessels everywhere collapse when chilled, and the circulation is driven into interior channels. The skin becomes pale, dry and cold, and the blood, repelled from the surface, accumulates in the lungs, heart, bowels, kidneys, liver, spleen, stomach, &c. &c., developing, according to the predisposition of the individual, such diseases as catarrh, bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy, pericarditis, cholera, bilious fever, intermittent fever, diabetes, dropsy, &c. &c. Thousands of our people are so delicately organized, as to be incapable of getting wet feet, or sitting in a draft of air for five minutes, without that derangement in the balance of the circulation which is called a cold, or some other pathological effect. In this delicate and sickly condition they pass through life, the play of their vital organs continually deranged by those influences of climate which were designed by Nature for tonic agencies—continually undergoing a series of derangements, and finally tumbling to pieces, like a half built carriage, from ordinary jolting of the road, which should only have displayed the strength of its springs.

To prevent these continually recurring derangements, we must brace up the constitution with proper calorific powers, which alone will put to flight a host of evils that are supposed to be necessary attendants of civilized life. It was remarked in the southern campaign of our second war, that the white men where continually taking colds, while the Indians, exposed with scanty clothing to the hardships of the open air, were scarcely ever troubled by such affections. But in the midst of our civilization, there are many who scarcely know what it is to have a cold, or to experience any disturbance of health which could be referred to variations of temperature.

In truth, we should all be educated up to that point—we should be able to defy the variations of the seasons—to laugh at the winter's cold and summer's heat, and never to complain for one moment of that alternation of the seasons which was designed to build up the constitution of man, and render him a hero.

The kingdom of Heaven is to be realized on Earth, not by changing every thing here, but by changing ourselves into such a state of body and mind, that we can appreciate and enjoy what is here given to us and consider it a Heaven, as we might easily make it.

To gain this adaptation—to invigorate our constitution for the world as it is, by increasing the calorific power, the most essential requisite is to keep that power in constant activity. During the winter, the calorific energy may be taxed to the utmost: when we spend a whole day in open air with the thermometer below zero, we generate a calorific energy which enables us to put at defiance the little hardships of the weather, which previously annoyed us. But if we spend a large portion of our time in the house, in sedentary employment, the calorific energies decline, and we tremble upon exposure to the cold. What course, then, should we pursue? Should our apartments be cool or warm? Should we be heavily or thinly clothed? As a general rule, the temperature of our apartments should be about sixty degrees, but, as a universal rule, they should be kept at that temperature which is *most pleasant* to the inmates, but always falling be-

low rather than rising above the standard of agreeable temperature. When we go forth from an agreeable warmth, we are prepared to react against the cold, but when we go forth partially chilled, the contact of cold air without, instead of producing a healthy reaction, produces a deeper chill. Men who have been for sometime in a hot vapor bath can run out upon the snow for a few moments with pleasure. The warmer we are, the greater pleasure with which we encounter the cold blast. Hence, it is indispensable that those who would build up their constitutions, should not encounter the cold without being thus prepared to welcome it. Nor should they remain exposed to the cold, until they are chilled. Every such exposure is a positive injury. It is only by encountering a cold atmosphere, and successfully resisting it—maintaining our proper temperature, that we increase the calorific power. If we are not able, at first, to generate the necessary heat, we should use more active exercise, and more stimulating food. We should also resort to the heat of a fire until we have attained a state of pleasant warmth.

But we should beware of relying too much* upon clothing. The smallest amount of clothing required by the constitution is the best.—When persons of sedentary pursuits endeavor, by heavy clothing, to make up for the lack of fires, exercise, and stimulating food, they commit a decided error. Exercise, food, and fire, are sustaining stimulants; but clothing, beyond what is absolutely necessary, is depressing and debilitating. It impedes the proper flow of nervous influences, diminishes the influence of the light and air, and tends, in proportion to its density, to paralyze the proper action of the skin, which is necessary, like that of the lungs to the purification of the blood, and the performance of the great calorific operation, the combustion of the blood. The skin may be considered, like the lungs, a breathing organ. Insects breathe entirely through the skin, and man is partially dependant upon it for the respiratory office. In smaller animals, the interruption of the action of the skin is fatal. A rabbit, at the temperature of 100°, was shaved and coated over by M. Buquesel and Breschut with an air-tight composition of glue, suet, and rosin. In an hour after this composition was put on, the temperature of the rabbit sunk to 75° and it died from cold. The same experiment on another rabbit produced a simular effect.

Dense, compact clothing, closely fastened to the body, or accumulated in such quantity as to impede the proper ventilation and calorification of the skin is, therefore, one of the most debilitating and pernicious influences to which we can be subjected. Clothing should always be as porous and as cleanly as possible, to give free passage to the exhalations of the skin, for, when the carbonic acid gas and other exhalations of the skin have accumulated upon it, we undergo a species of cutaneous suffocation, as though we had been breathing a foul atmosphere. The carbonic acid retained in the blood obstructs and paralyzes the capillary circulation, and all the processes of life become more sluggish.

*Or *too little.* Eds. E. J. of M.

Whether the same effects would be readily produced upon human beings as were produced upon the rabbits, we are not likely to learn by any designed experiment; but, we are told that "at a meeting of the Medical Society of Emulation, of Paris, M. Mojon stated that a child, whose body had been covered with gold leaf for a figure in a procession, died the same night."

I would not proscribe clothing, but would merely regulate its use by the rule of conforming strictly to our own feelings of comfort.—Use no more than is necessary for comfort; let it be porous and cleanly, so as to give a feeling of freshness and ease to the skin, and avoid relying upon clothing whenever it can be laid aside. When we sit down in the house, throw off the overcoat, and dress as lightly as practicable. On all occasions wear as little clothing as may be comfortable, but take care that we keep ourselves sufficiently warm by other means. It is a most pernicious error to think that we can improve our hardihood or strengthen the constitution by any exposure which makes us chilly. By such a course we may undermine our health, but we cannot gain increased vital stamina. Parents who treat their children in this manner, exposing them to a degree of cold which is not comfortably borne, inflict a serious injury, greater in proportion to the delicacy of their constitution. Children should never be exposed to a greater degree of cold than what they will endure willingly or with pleasure.

The great law of hygiene cultivation is to *follow nature*, and the proper mode of following nature, is wisely to *consult our own pleasure*. In other words, pleasure and pain are our constant teachers and guides in physical cultivation, designed naturally to attract us to everything that is right. and to repel us from every thing that is wrong. When we go forth from a warm room, well clad and our hot blood in active circulation we face the cool breeze with delight, and triumph over the rigor of climate. Our vital organs are in a vigorous condition and we are training them to resist successfully the rigors of winter, we enjoy a positive pleasure in inhaling the cool air, and we are acquiring a vigorous constitution. But when we go forth with a languid circulation, and without sufficient heat to render an excursion pleasant—when we go forth reluctant and half chilled, the vital organs do not react properly, the circulation is embarrased and we remain for hours in a state of partial discomfort which neither benefits our health nor increases our calorific power, but positively injures both. We did not consult the pleasure and comfort of our bodies and we positively injured them. Let us then bear in mind that the true method of holding up the human body, is to give it VIGOROUS ACTION IN THE MOST AGREEABLE MANNER.

By strictly obeying this rule we may build up our calorific power to any extent, and put at defiance the inclemencies of the season.—We should make it a rule during the severest cold of winter, to get ourselves into a glowing heat before the fire, and then with a liberal supply of clothing, go forth into the open air, and spend several hours in the cold wind—not lounging nor merely walking, but in the most active exercise, such as running, skating or hunting. If we can cre-

ate sufficient heat to justify it, our overcoat may be unbuttoned or thrown off, but, we should never run any risk of producing chilliness. By taking this course as frequently as possible during the winter, we shall lay up a stock of health and hardihood which will last us the remainder of the year. Every one who fails to take this winter-hardening, does his constitution injustice, and parents who refuse to allow their children to run on the ice and snow, are robbing them of their physiological rights.

There is nothing like cold for increasing the general hardihood and diminishing nervousness and marked sensibility. The benefit of this influence may be enjoyed the whole year round, by the cautious use of cold water. But for want of knowledge of the physiological principle, that pleasure and comfort should be our guide in the treatment of the body; many who might attempt to improve their health by the use of cold water, would be liable either to inflict a positive injury, or to produce results so unsatisfactory as to deter them from prosecuting the attempt.

To bathe in cold water, when there is no sufficient heat in the body to make it pleasant and refreshing, or sufficient vital force to ensure a pleasant glow after the application of cold, is productive of no benefit. If we cannot by means of fire or exercise get up sufficient vital heat to make the cold bath pleasant, we should begin by the use of water in a more guarded manner, applying it in the first instance very nearly at the temperature of our bodies and gradually lowering the temperature as we find that we bear a colder fluid with pleasure. The most delicate invalid can begin thus—taking a bathing tub, or any other suitable vessel, and after pouring in a supply of cold water adding as much hot water as may be necessary to render the temperature perfectly pleasant to his or her sensations. Let the water be applied by means of a towel or sponge, in a warm appartment, and let there be a sufficient amount of exercise before and after the bath to maintain a general glow. It is specially important to take often exercise before bathing, so that the bath may be enjoyed, not as a physiological duty but as a refreshing luxury.

By pursuing this course, we may with great certainty gradually lower the temperature of our bath, until if we have rightly managed ourselves, we can bathe in ice water and enjoy it. When we have thus far succeeded, we have overcome our morbid sensibility, increased our vital force, and given such a tone to the constitution as will protect us from the colds and other disorders produced by variations of the temperature of the atmosphere.—*Journal of Man.*

COUGH DROPS—*Compound Mixture of Bloodroot.*—Take of Tincture of Bloodroot, Syrup of Ipecacuanha, Syrup of Squills, Tincture of Balsam Tolu, and Paregoric, of each *one ounce.* Mix.

Used in all severe coughs from colds; it is a valuable mixture.—Dose, half to a drachm whenever the cough is severe.

[*Ec. Dispensatory U. S.*

Medical Training for Women.

'The world does move.' There is no use in trying to deny the fact. Mrs. Sarah J. Hale, whom we have been accustomed to regard as among the most conservative of her sex, now gives her name and efforts to a movement to establish in Philadelphia; "The Ladies' Medical Missionary Society," with branches throughout the country. The following extract from the programme will indicate the scope and aims of this new association :

"Believing that God, in committing the care of the young especially to woman, imposes on her the duty of preparing herself in the best possible manner for the important vocations, among which are the care of her own health, the physical well-being of her children, and attendance on the sick, suffering and helpless; and finding, also, that the Bible recognizes and approves *only woman* in the sacred office of *midwife*, therefore we, who gave our names to this benevolent association, agree to unite in the following purposes :

"1st. To co-operate with the efforts now being made in this city of Philadelphia, to qualify women to become physicians for their own sex and for children.

"2d. To give kindly encouragement to those females who are engaged in medical studies.

"3d. To give aid and sympathy to any among them who may desire to become missionaries, and go, in the spirit of love, to carry to the poor suffering women of heathendom, not only the blessings of the healing art, which Christian men can rarely, if ever, bear to females in those lands, but also the higher and holier knowledge of the true God, and of salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ."

—Fifty years hence, it will be difficult to gain credit for the assertion that American Women acquiesced, throughout the former half of the Nineteenth Century, in the complete monopoly of the Medical Profession by men, even including Midwifery and the treatment of the diseases peculiar to the gentler sex. The current usage in this respect is monstrous, and nothing but the past enslavement of Women in mind, body and estate could account for its toleration. But its reign is near its end. The abuse begins to be discussed, and discussion will soon finish it. If there were five hundred women fully educated for Physicians to day, there would soon be found room and work for them all—and ten years hence five thousand such would not be one too many. We are confident that one hundred—their capacity and fitness being well established—could find enough to do in our City within a year from this date. Where is the woman, with any pretensions to delicacy or refinement, who will not prefer the ministrations of a competent woman at the birth of a child if she could be sure of obtaining them?

— The history of the early steps of the now pending Reform is mos instructive. Just look at this chapter of it:

A female student of Medicine applied for permission to attend th Lectures of the medical department of Harvard University, something more than a year since and the Faculty granted the request.

But the *Medical Students* of that institution, bless their fastidious souls! thereupon held a meeting and passed and published the following resolutions:

"*Resolved*, That no woman of true delicacy would be willing, in the presence of men, to listen to the discussion of the subjects that necessarily come under the consideration of the students of medicine.

Resolved, That we are not opposed to allowing woman her rights, but do protest against her appearing in places where her presence is calculated to destroy our respect for the modesty and delicacy of her sex."

Of course, the young lady could not consent to shock the delicacy of these callow and sensitive champions of modesty by attending a course of Medical Lectures with them, so she withdrew her application and relieved their distressed sensibilities. But when young men manifest such delicacy—(and medical students of all the world) does it not become women to feel or feign a little modesty likewise with regard to the exposures, oral and personal, which disease or childbirth often requires?

—We have not room to pursue the subject, but refer those interested to Mrs. S. J. Hale (Secretary, 297 Chesnut st. Philadelphia,) for Circulars containing full information. Contributions in aid of the enterprise may be addressed to Mrs. Thomas Wood, 323 Arch st., Phila., Treasurer. $1 per annum constitutes a member, $5 a benefactor, $20 a life member, $50 or more a patron of the Society, which aims at the education of Women for Medical Missionaries, in aid of Missionary operations throughout the world. One such woman, thoroughly fitted for her vocation, could do more toward Christianizing a savage tribe than a cart load of tracts backed by dozens of expounders and exhorters. The idea is good, and we urge the respectable to give it their countenance before it has time to get branded as a new device of Socialism and infidelity. Thus far, Bishop Potter, Rev. John P. Durbin, Rev. Howard Malcom and a number of the most eminent clergymen have given it their warmest approval.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

DISINFECTING LAMP.—A note from a medical friend, reminds us of a beautiful, simple, economical apparatus, for overcoming bad odors and purifying any apartment where the air is loaded with noxious materials. A description of it has already appeared, but the reference, in the note alluded to, has unfortunately been mislaid. The whole matter, however, is simply this:—Take one of any of the various kinds of glass lamps—for burning camphene, for example—and fill it with chloric ether, and light the wick. In a few minutes the object will be accomplished. In dissecting rooms, in the damp, deep vaults, where vegetables are sometimes stored, or where drains allow the escape of offensive gasses, in outbuildings, and, in short, in any spot where it is desirable to purify the atmosphere, burn one of these lamps. One tube charged with a wick, is quite sufficient. This suggestion is really worth remembering for the comfort of a sick room, because it is easily accomplished, agreeable and more economical for purifying than any process now known.—*Boston M. and S. Jour.*

On Intermitting Pulse.

BY DR. TODD.

Among the most interesting modifications of the pulse, which we meet with in practice, is that which arises from the impairment of the of the rhythm of the pulse, or what is called the *intermitting pulse.*

The most common form of intermitting pulse is that in which the phenomenon of intermission results from the prolongation of the natural period of rest in the series of changes which constitute the heart's rhythm. The heart's rhythm consists of a regular succession of first sound, second sound, rest,—first sound, second sound, rest,—and so on. Now in an intermittent pulse this rest is unnaturally long,—the first sound of one beat succeeds the second of the previous beat, but after too long a pause. Sometimes the intermissions are very regular, occuring after every fourth or every third beat; sometimes perfectly irregular, at one time after every one or two beats, at another, every thirty or forty.

Now what are the indications of this form of intermittent pulse? Is it indicative of organic disease? Dr. Todd thinks he may state positively that an intermittent pulse of itself affords no indication of organic disease of the heart. The phenomenon of intermission is due to some disturbance of the local nervous influence, upon which, probably, the rhythmical character of the heart's action depends.—Nor are we justified in pronouncing unfavorably of a patient because he has an intermittent pulse. We may meet with many persons who will tell us that they have had intermittent pulse nearly all their lives. Take a man in his ordinary health, and discharging his usual avocations,—for example a medical student,—and suppose this intermittent pulse to be his only notable symptom, then we may set it down, without any hesitation, that there is no organic disease,—neither valvular lesion, nor any organic change in the healthy condition of the heart in any other respect.

But undoubtedly this form of intermitting pulse denotes a derangement of the heart's action of a sympathetic nature, and almost invariably in sympathy with the state of digestion. This kind of pulse is of very common occurrence in men who work hard, neglect exercise, are irregular as to meals, and sit up late at night. It is also very common, and doubtless from the same cause, in gouty men. Intermittent pulse is not uncommonly a precursor of a paroxysm of gout. Certain ingesta are very apt in some people to cause intermission of the pulse. Tea, for example, especially green tea, is one of these: ices, more particularly cream ices, will do the same. So, also, certain medicines,—as digitalis and colchicum.

Of all the causes of intermitting pulse in persons of middle age, or upwards, and in the middle or higher classes of society, Dr. Todd thinks we shall find the gouty state of the most common. The *materies morbi* of gout acts upon the nervous system of the heart much in the same way as the principle of green tea or digitalis would do, and gives rise to the disturbance which deranges the heart's rhythm:

hence, in the treatment of these cases, you must endeavor to purify the blood, by regulating the diet and by promoting the excretions, in such a manner as will not debilitate the patient.

Dr. Todd has stated that the intermittent pulse is not a necessary indication of organic disease of the heart. It is a curious fact, which is in some measure confirmatory of this remark, that of the various forms of disease to which the heart is subject, intermitting pulse is not of very frequent occurrence with any, nor is it constant to any particular form.

If there is one state of cardiac disease with which it is more frequently associated than with another, Dr. Todd would say it was disease of the mitral valve accompanied by weakness of the muscular fibre of the heart. But a large number of cases of mitral disease will occur without it to one with it; and, therefore, this occasional association gives it no value as an indication. The intermittent pulse depends on some interference with the healthy nutrition of ihe muscular system of the heart; and hence it is observed so frequently in bad states of the blood,—as in dyspepsia, gout, rheumatism.

We may gather, from what has been previously stated, that there is another form of intermitting pulse besides that to which Dr. Todd has alluded. The characteristic feature of this form is, that the intermission of the pulse does not result from intermission of the heart's *rhythm*, but from irregularity in the *strength* of the heart's systolic contractions. The heart may never intermit, and yet the pulse may; or, in other words, tho intervals between the beats of the pulse may vary considerably in duration. This form of intermitting pulse sometimes occurs alone, sometimes simultaneously with that in which the heart's rhythm is deranged. When it occurs in the progress of an acute disease, as of fever, erysipelas, &c., it must be looked upon as a sign foreboding the worst results. Our author apprehends that it is this form of intermitting pulse which most commonly accompanies fatty diseases of the heart; and, on the whole, in all states of disease, both acute and chronic, it is that form from which we may augur least favorably for the patient.

Posture influences these two forms of intermittent pulse differently. The first form, or that which depends on a prolongation of the natural period of rest in the heart's rhythm, is diminished by the erect posture, and the heart becomes more regular in its rhythm. On the other hand, the erect posture increases the number of intermissions in the second form by embarrassing the heart's action in the way which Dr. Todd has already described.—*Medical Gazette.*

Macrotin.

THE RESINOID PRINCIPLE OF THE ROOT OF MACROTYS RACEMOSA.

Preparation.—In the same manner as Aletrin, or Podophyllin. It is a dark-brown substance, sometimes yellow, being lighter colored after pulverization, of a faint, narcotic odor, and a slightly bitter, feebly nauseous taste, soluble in alcohol. This valuable and useful remedy I have used successfully in medicine since 1835, and had the honor of

calling the attention of practitioners to it in 1844, and again in the Western Medical Reformer, of 1846; but it was not received into general use among practitioners until its preparation on a large scale by our indefatigable pharmacetist, W. S. Merrell, and it is now ranked among the standard and most important eclectic agents. K.

Properties and Uses.—Tonic, alterative, nervine, antiperiodic, with an especial affinity for the uterus. It does not possess the narcotic properties of the root; which, however, are preserved in the dried hydro-alcoholic extract, or the ethereal extract. Used in intermittent fever, periodic diseases, leucorrhea, menorrhagia, dysmenorrhea, amenorrhea, sterility, rheumatism, scrofula, and prolapsus uteri not accompanied with an inflammatory condition of that organ or its ligaments. It has also been used with success in gleet, gonorrhea, dyspepsia, etc., and the tincture has been found an excellent application in chronic opthalmia. Dose, one to six grains, three times a day.

The late Prof. T. V. Morrow says of this article:

For several months past I have used the Macrotin very extensively, in the treatment of a numerous class of female diseases, for a successful treatment of which I had for many years previous been in the habit of depending mainly on the Macrotys Racemosa, either in the form of infusion, decoction, or tincture. My confidence in the value of the Macrotys Racemosa, I am free to confess, has been such as to induce me to use perhaps a larger quantity of this medicine, for the last sixteen years, than any practitioner in the United States, giving it a more extended range of application in the treatment of disease, and relying with more confidence on its ultimate efficiency, than any of my medical friends. My experience in the use of this article, during the period named, has been mostly confined to cases of leucorrhea, menorrhagia, prolapsus uteri, threatened miscarriage, dysmennorrhea, and barrenness, or sterility, in all of which cases I have obtained the most satisfactory results from the Cimicifuga, or Macrotys; but deeming the Macrotin a more convenient form of the medicine for practical use, and believing it to contain the virtues of the article from which it is obtained, I have accordingly used it in similar cases, with results thus far which justify the conclusion that it will be found a satisfactory substitute.

My experience in the use of the Macrotin has demonstrated to my mind that there is a slight difference in the modus operandi of this form of the medicine, when compared with the usual forms in which the Macrotys Racemosa has been used. That difference principally consists in the increased liability of the latter to produce a heavy, dull, and aching sensation in the forehead, in connection with a feeling of dizziness, while the former appears to manifest a greater tendency to produce aching, and somewhat painful sensations in the joints and limbs generally. I have usually given the Macrotin in the form of pills, prepared by adding a small quantity of pulverized Castile soap, enough to make the mass properly adhesive and forming it into pills of the ordinary size, and giving one every three hours during the day, in all the various cases above mentioned, whenever they have come under my care, since I commenced its use. In nearly all these

cases, it has proved singularly beneficial, thus affording the gratifying evidence that it will soon become one of the most popular and valuable articles of the materia medica.

Another Professor, in speaking of Macrotin, remarks:

"This medicine is, in its effects, essentially the same as the Macrotys, (Cimicifuga of the U. S. Dispensatory.) It is particularly useful in chronic rheumatic affections, and in female diseases. In leucorrhea and dysmenorrhea, as well as menorrhagia, it is invaluable. It should be used, in order to get its best effects, to the extent of producing its specific constitutional spmptoms, *i. e.* a peculiar dizziness, fullness and dull aching of the head, and more or less aching in the joints. This effect should be produced every day (slightly) during the treatment, until the disease is removed. By this treatment, and the use of hip baths, leucorrhea will often be cured in a week or ten days, without any other remedy."

The analogous diseases, gleets and gonorrheas, are greatly benefited, if not speedily cured by it, either alone or in combination with other appropriate remedies.

The Macrotin is also a most valuable medicine, especially as an adjunct of other remedies, in all pulmonary, rheumatic and dyspeptic effections, where there is a want of tone in the nervous system.

"It is also a very useful agent in the treatment of small pox, in which it should be given during the whole course of the disease. It seems to divest it of its malignant character. I have never lost a case of small pox where this medicine was used thoroughly from the beginning, and during the winter of 1849 and 1850, I treated from fifty to one hundred cases, some of which were of the most severe confluent kind. The dose is from one-fourth to one grain, to be given once in three or four hours until the proper symptons of the medicine appear."

Off. Prep.—Pilulæ Leonuri Compositæ; Pilulæ Polygoni Compositæ.

Human Physiology.

THE TRUE BASIS OF REFORM.

BY T. L. NICHOLS, M. D.

Reform society, and you improve individuals, says one class of socialists. Reform individuals, and you improve society, says another. And these two classes, instead of working together, are at daggers drawing. The fact is that the two reforms must, and will go on side by side, and neither can be made to precede the other. You can no more make one man good and happy until the whole society to which he belongs is in a good and happy condition, than you can make one organ of the body sound and well while the rest of the body is in a state of disease.

Society has its false conditions and its diseases, like individuals, and it needs similar curative treatment. The causes of social disease bear a close and startling resemblance to those of individuals. There

are congestions of wealth and luxury, and atrophies of poverty and starvation. Society has its inflammation and eruptions, its ulcers, and spots of hideous gangrene. It was long ago said that a great city was a great sore. The fact is, that our great cities are organs in a state of hypertrophy, irritation, and diseased action and condition.

In a healthy human society, all the parts would be in proper proportion, all in a clean and healthy condition, and every function would be carried on with that regularity which would insure harmony, happiness,—in a word, health,—to the whole body. In our present society, as in the men and women who compose it, we meet with discord and derangement, pain and distress, on every side. As all the members of the human body are bound together by a common bond of sympathy, so that all suffer for one as one suffers for all, so every individual in society is joined to every other. This is what socialists mean by the solidarity of peoples; this is what Christians mean by human brotherhood. "Ye are all members one of another."

The office of the philanthropist and that of the physician are the same; both need the same knowledge; and whoever attempts the function of either without the knowledge necessary to it is a pretender. We have empirical reformers and empirical physicians; we have allopathic philanthropists as well as allopathic doctors; we have amiable and transcendental homeopathists in both departments; and the world has yet to learn that the principles of a true physiology and a scientific water-cure are necessary to cure the ills of society as well as those of its members.

I have neither the time nor space to elaborate and illustrate the idea I have hastily thrown out. I commend it to the thoughtful attention of those who have the benevolence, and only want the science, to be the world's reformers.—*W. C. Journal.*

Buried Alive.—Pliny mentions the case of a young man of high rank, who having expired some time, as it was thought, was placed upon the funeral pile. The heat of the flames revived him, but he perished before his friends could rescue him. The great anatomist Vesalius had the unspeakable misfortune to commence the dissection of a living body apparently dead. Equally unhappy was the fate of the Abbe Prevost, who fell apoplectic, but recovered his consiousness too late, under the scalpel. Preparations were made to embalm the body of Cardinal Somaglia. The operator had scarcely penetrated into the chest when the heart was seen to beat. Returning partially to his senses, he had sufficient strength to push away the knife; but the lung was mortally wounded. In one of our journals is recorded the strangely interesting case of the Rev. Mr. Tennett, of New Jersey, who laid three days in his shroud, and was saved from interment almost by a miracle. We find a collection by Brohier of no less than fifty-two cases of persons buried alive; four dissected prematurely; fifty-three who recovered after being confined; and seventy-two falsely considered dead.—*Boston Post.*

On the Detection of Mercury in the Body of a Person Dying of Mercurial Cachexy.

BY M. GORUP-BESANEZ.

That quicksilver is one of the metals capable of absorption into the economy is a well known fact, detected as it has been by various chemists, not only in the blood, but in the secretions of various organs, and especially the saliva, and in the structure of the organs themselves. But as to the mode of its distribution, the duration of its presence in the various organs, and whether it is found in all or certain tissues only, are points yet to be investigated. Dr. Gorup-Besanez relates the results of a recent investigation of the body of a woman, who was long (twenty-five years) laboriously engaged in silvering looking-glasses. but who, from the convulsive tremors that were induced, had been obliged to desist from her occupation for a year prior to death.

The somewhat collapsed brain did not entirely fill the skull, and the dura matter was of a reddish-blue from venous congestion. The consistence of the brain was firmer than usual. The lungs were hepatized ; loaded with dark-colored blood, and noncrepitant.

The chemical results obtained by following the processes of Fresenius and Babo were as follows. The lungs and heart gave no traces of mercury ; a very small quantity was detected in the liver, and none in the bile. A doubtful precipitate was thrown down upon the gold plate by the brain, while the spinal column presented no traces. That any remains at all should be found after a year is remarkable, and is confirmatory of other facts, proving how long certain metals, *e. g.* antimony, may be retained in the economy. That the liver was the only organ in which it could then be detected, confirms the doctrine that metallic poisonous substances are longest found in that organ.—*Buchner's Report.*, vii, 178—186.

The above is taken from the British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review, Oct. 1841.

Now if the effect of merely working with quicksilver, is so destructive to the human economy, what must necessarily be the result of the enormous amount taken into the system in the form of *Calomel!* In the above case, it was found in the system one year after the person was removed from the business. Reasoning from analogy, how long would it require the system to be freed from the pounds that *some* physicians administer in some individual cases, for certain diseases? —*Ec. Med. Journal.*

Bleeding.

PHYSICIAN.—How many times has he been bled? PEASANT—Fifteen times in twenty days. PHYSICIAN.—Fifteen times bled?—PEASANT.—Yes, sir. PHYSICIAN.—And he is not cured yet?—PEASANT.—No, sir. PHYSICIAN.—Then we may be sure the disease s not in the blood. We must purge him the same number of times to see if it is not in the *humors*. If that does not answer, we can but send him to the baths.

EDITORIAL.

The Chemistry and Natural Philosophy of the Human Body.

Written especially for non-medical Readers.

PROPOSITION.—The universe, in all its parts, is *dual*, or double.

Our own *consciousness of being*, and of power to will and do, is the strongest proof of the existence of a *mind*, or *spirit*, in our posession, and must ever be, with right-thinking persons, a *sufficient* proof also.

But as consciousness is self-realization, we can have no consciousness of *matter*. The existence of matter requires a different kind of proof. Spirit is perceived, and admitted, immediately by spirit. Matter is, on the other hand, only perceived by the spirit, through the medium of matter. Of its existence we know only through the senses. Yet this proof, the only species which in the nature of the case is possible, is also, to all right-thinking persons, sufficient and convincing.

We may lay it down as a fundamental truth, therefore, that the pure Materialist, and the pure Spiritualist, are both in the wrong.—Their one-sided doctrines, weighed against the common consciousness of mankind, and the common evidence of the senses of mankind, must both fall, and be written down as quibbles by which mind can deceive itself, mists it spreads before its own vision.

There are reasons, which I shall not stop here to present, leading to the belief that all the *forces* which control matter, and bring about the various changes we observe in it, are but *direct* or *indirect manifestations* of the presence and action of Mind, Intelligence, or Spirit. When you voluntary lift a heavy body, Reader, your mind evidently sets in action the train of forces, or manifestations of force, which result in that body's motion; but the Supreme Intelligence, acting everywhere and incessantly, is, at the same time, impelling the lifted body in an opposite direction, i. e., downward, producing what you call its gravitation.

It is of but little consequence, so far as an understanding of detached natural phenomena are concerned, whether we suppose matter to be controlled by many forces, or by one solitary but universal force,

acting differently under different conditions. But when we come to consider the relation of different kingdoms of nature to each other,—of organized existences to dead materials,—of man and mind to the forces of gravitation in the earth and other masses of matter, to affinity in foods, liquids, and gases, and to Heat, Light and Electricity, the question becomes one of deep and unusual interest.

Whence has the giant tree drawn the POWER that, through four centuries past, has been building up its millions of feet of fibre and sap-vessels? Has it not borrowed that power from the elements around it? And if, five hundred years ago, that vast *tree-power* nowhere existed *as* tree-power, then how did it exist? Why, as light, heat, gravity, electricity, and so on. If not, that tree is a *creator*. It has created all that force, or has borrowed it. Which?—Which could a tree do? Not create, I think; for I know of but one Creator—the Supreme Intelligence.

And whence the power that has built up *the man*, creation's lord, from the pulpy embryo, creation's mystery and shame? Surely not created by that embryo; but borrowed, in streams of heat, and affinity, and electricity, ever flowing into the new being from the ocean of Force in the midst of which it is born, and metamorphosed in that being into life-force, by which it grows and acts.

ILLUSTRATION.—Place about 22 4-5 lbs. of lead in an open vessel, and in a moist atmosphere. Let the circumstances be such that heat shall be lost from the lead, at the various temperatures of the air, at the same rate as it is lost by the human body, under the same circumstances. Now put alongside of the mass, a man in health, weighing 140 lbs. The same amount of constantly renewed heat is required to keep the man's body through a year *in a proper living condition*, as would be required to keep the 22 4-5 lbs. of lead *incessantly in a melted state*, for the same length of time.

Immense, untold streams of heat flow through the body of a living adult, or even infant, within a single round of the seasons.. But does it all flow *through*, and so, away? Does not much of it disappear within the body, not become *latent*, but *converted into* AFFINITY—affinity, the patient *bricklayer*, who sits pleasantly on the wall of every human tissue, and lays atom to atom, thread to thread, and thus builds up with its goodly exterior the mystic "house we live in?"

And while each living body is thus a channel through which rushes such a torrent of Heat, and a manufactory in which other large supplies of heat are constantly being wrought into affinity, action,

and so on, is it not also a thoroughfare for electricity, and almost all other varieties of force? Man carries about the essence of rainbows, auroras, lightnings, summers and tornadoes, in his own being!

[The practical man asks here, "of what *value* is all this?" Why, this. If a system be *depressed*, *debilitated*, its *vital force*, or *life-force*, on the ebb, we learn where the fountain is to which it must go for a new supply, and the only fountain from which supplies can be drawn. Such a system has lost its adaptation to draw force from the elements around it; and what the skillful physician really aims at, whether he knows it or not, is, to impart such force directly to the system, or to restore the harmony existing in health between the system of man and the system of external nature, so that the former shall again be able to hold out its conductors to the latter, and draw into itself the streams of force which become its own power. Many an invalid has died from the sheer lack of heat. I am serious. Pour heat from the fire into the body that can obtain it in *no* other way, and meanwhile look after the particular hindrance that prevents its generation within, and pretty soon the machinery plays again, takes care of itself,—and you have saved a life!

When we know *just what* are the sources to which we are to look for aid in disease, and *just what* are the ends we should aim to accomplish, we can hardly fail to secure beneficial results with the greatest possible safety, speed, and certainty.]

From what has already been said we may draw the conclusion expressed in our second

PROPOSITION.—The universe, in all its parts, contains both *Force* and *Matter*.

The visible, palpable *human being*, is material. "Dust thou art."

But more: the material man is *chemical*,—wholly made of chemical elements and compounds. Iron, that fills layers in the dead earth, flies swiftly the rounds of the circulation, in our veins. Coal, piled away in vast mines under our feet, whirls as briskly in our blood, lies quietly in the still organs of our bodies, and plays ten thousand antics in our nervous and muscular structures.

But chemical substances, in their relation to each other, cannot, of course, be actuated by any but chemical laws and affiinities. Hence the force by which the elements of living bodies are held together, is purely chemical.

DEFINITIONS.—Chemical force, or affinity, is that which combines atoms or particles of *unlike* substances. Thus, the atoms of Oxygen, a gas, unite with those of Hydrogen, also a gas, and form Water.—

Cohesive force, on the contrary, unites *like* atoms; as Lead to Lead, Silver to Silver, in the mass.

Substances are either simple or compound. Simple substances, or *elements*, are such as *have never been* decomposed. Thus pure Iron, Gold, Carbon, Oxygen, &c., have never been separated into simpler matters than themselves; and, perhaps, cannot be so separated. Compounds, as Water, Earths, Salts, &c., are separable into simpler ingredients.

Matter exists in three states, as Solids, Liquids, and Gases or Vapors. Undoubtedly, could we procure the requisite low or high degree of heat, every known substance might be made to take, in turn, all these different forms.

Thus much by way of preliminaries. In my next I shall introduce some of the chemical elements of Man. B.

Central Medical College.—Close of the Winter Session.

The general satisfaction, mutual interest, and good feeling which so manifestly characterized the intercourse and studies of the late Class in C. M. College, grew still more conspicuous towards the close of the Session. A proper appreciation of the magnitude, and the needs, of an enterprise like that of establishing a reliable Eclectic Medical College, of the relations of the student and teacher, and of the student's course to the *success*, (I use the word in its best sense,) of the future practitioner, has been a distinguishing mark of the band of earnest minds, of whom some have just taken their departure from us, while others remain to aid in giving cast and character to the Class that is just assembling. As medical teachers, we, in common with our compeers, shall ever remember the kindness and catholic liberality of spirit we have always met with at their hands; while, as conductors of a medical journal, we have, personally, cause to thank them for the promptitude and efficiency with which they have responded to the call made upon them to aid in extending its circulation and influence.

On Wednesday evening, the 18 ult., the Faculty, Students, and a large company of friends, from the City, and from a distance, assembled in the College rooms, to honor the occasion by a scene of social festivity. Sociality ran high; Cheer reigned: and though smiles were at a premium, the market was kept well stocked. G. W. Clark discoursed most excellent music, (as he well knows how to do,) enliven-

ing, elevating, and highly progressive in its spirit. Then came toasts, (without the pitiful accompaniment of the guzzling of *alcohol*, which, it is believed, the Class use only "for *medicinal* purposes," and for that, one may say, the less the better,) with speech-makings, repartees, and the like; and the evening's entertainment closed with scenic representations, gotten up on the private responsibility of some of the Students and others, which "brought down the house" in rounds of applause, successive and prolonged.

Some may cavil respecting the propriety of such exercises at the close of a course of study by those just about to go forth to the weighty responsibilities of the physician. Well, no matter: there are those who do not so cavil. There are those who do not opine that life was designed to be a half-century, or less, of *respectable stupor*, or *standard melancholia!* Those who believe that health is honorable, and mirthfulness moral, if they but add to their creed that honesty is policy, philanthropy the only selfishness that "pays," (—"*self*-love, and *social*, are the same," and happy he who knows it!—) and man priceless above all mere successes, advantages, and gains in business,—they, I say, are safe. Where Healing is possible, they will be the sure Healers,—of body, and mind, of the individual, and society.

The public closing exercises of the Session took place on the following day. Prof. P. C. DOLLEY delivered the Address to the Graduating Class, in which he displayed a high degree of ability and originality of thought, coupled with many practical and valuable suggestions to those now about to enter upon the work of building up the uncertain fabric of medical reputation and success. The Degrees having been conferred, Dr. L. N. JONES, one of those who had just received the honors of the Institution, delivered a very pertinent and interesting Valedictory Address, and to the regular business of the day followed the hearty "adieus," and then the departure of one by one, till the group was scattered, and the late busy halls empty. The pen need not be delayed to moralize here, but minds must moralize over this, as over how many events of our shifting life!

The following are the names of the Graduates, male and female, and the Subject of their respective Theses:

NAMES.	THESES.
BRONSON, PERMELIA R., Miss	*Fever.*
CHEFFEY, ROBERT S.,	*Scarlatina.*
DOUD, LETTIÇE, H., Mrs.	*Medicine.*
FENNER, ANSEL W.,	*Medical Progression with practical hints.*

FULLER, CHRISTOPHER M.,	*Nature her own Restorer.*
HAWLEY, WARREN G.,	*Strictures on the Hypothesis of Koino-Miasmata.*
JONES, LORENZO N.,	*Scrofula.*
MILES, JOHN C.,	*Medical Science.*
SAWYER, MARY A., Mrs.	*Female Education.*

R.

What they Call Us.

At a recent Medical College Commencement, that of the Med. Depart. of Yale College, which took place Jan. 15th, 1852, an address was, as is often the case, delivered to the Graduating Class by one J. H. Curry, a new-fledged M. D. In point of literary excellence, and *ductility* of thought, the address must be allowed a high stand. So much cannot quite be said of its *liberality*,—a trait which, after all, is really the most *manly* of the category. Dr C., condemns all exclusivism, even exclusive Allopathy. Yet by his flexible logic he brings it to pass, that even ALLOPATHS are not *exclusively allopathic*, but are in reality *true Eclectics;* while ECLECTICS, by a parity of reasoning, are not *allopathic physicians*, but a class of *somebodies else*, and hence, necessarily, Quacks! Oh, logic! If the metamorphosis of the John-pie into a pie-John, (pigeon,) had not been perpetrated long ago, there would have remained a blank in our facetious literature, which the present gem would most aptly have filled.

The editor of the medical journal in which the Address is published, takes care to inform his readers, after all this, that by "Eclectics" the Dr. did not mean the class of "irregular" practitioners called by that name. It is to this pretty little cogitable of the editor's, that I would direct a word or two in conclusion.

"IRREGULAR"—what *does* it mean? Why *do* they call us so? Is the epithet one of praise, or blame? It is great praise of Luther that he was "irregular"; and so too of Galileo, and every "morning star" that heralded the day in religion, philosophy, or any good thing since time was! But allopathic writers have a right to find fault with us if we pervert their meaning. They do not mean so, of us. The epithet has not a kindly use, as when a man speaks of his brother, or the co-worker whom he delights to honor.

But we turn now to the *question of fact:* are we irregular? If so, by virtue of what? Were we not "regularly" born? [I dare not go back of *that*, Reader, though in this connection I could. But allopathic physicians and students are *so* modest! They cannot let

their sisters hear the lectures which are so "instructive" to them; and, to all but themselves, the philosophy of life's origin *should* be an *awful* secret.] But as to the question whether *we* were "regularly" born, or not, unfortunately, it must be confessed, history saith not.—Luckily, however, the burden of proof rests on the shoulders of our opponents, for every man is to be assumed a regularly admitted denizen of this lower sphere, until the contrary be shown; and we must therefore call on our allopathic brothers to show in what particulars their introduction into this "breathing existence" was more *regular*, *i. e.*, more "*conformable to custom*," (see Noah Webster,) than our own!

Or were our brains and senses—our apparatus of perception and thought—"irregularly" constructed; any more than those of our brother allopathists? Were their optics made to see straight before them, and ours to be always perversely looking round a corner?—Were their head-pieces made perfect looms, to weave out whole webs of truth without half an endeavor; while ours were fabricated into a set of ill-fated fanning-mills, which, no matter how much wheat of true science they run through, gather only the chess and cockle into their own hoppers? As good luck will have it, we must look to our opponents for the proof once more, before we stop to entertain so disheartening a notion. And let our self-named "regular" friends remember too, while they give their verdict, that none but *drunken men* ever yet charged the sun, moon and stars, with staggering!

Or is it our independence—our self-grown, and not *hereditary* opinions—that stamp us with "irregularity"? This may be so. We grant it; and what is more, we may claim it. We do not claim to call Allopaths "irregular," for the term is beneath us, and the argument it conveys, is such as silly nursing-maids address to the capacity of sillier children. We are not therefore like the tipsy vagabond already named, nor like the inmate of bedlam, who looks out from his grated window in sage amazement at the antics of a world of crazy men and women!

We need not even say that our opponents are in the *wrong*, unless we choose to make that the issue, for we have higher ground to stand on. They themselves concede us this ground—the highest our ambition could desire, or our philanthropy, (if we possess it,) delight to occupy. Our opponents have styled us "irregular." And so we take a hand, each, of Luther and Galileo, and with the pyramid of Human Progress towering from *Savagism* up to the NINETEENTH CENTURY for the attest of our mission, we laugh their conservative pride to

scorn. They *are* the pillars of a temple of two thousand years standing? Aye! and for that very reason the temple shall soon fall on them, and crush their memory in its ruins! They *are* the supporters of doctrines venerable by reason of a long and shadowy antiquity?—Yes! and for that very reason when the "new-lights" of the present become the venerable of future centuries, they who now nurse the image of antiquity shall have become a bye-word, or forgotten.—Such is the inflexible law of the universe. Radicalism often asks our sympathy; but conservatism always demands our pity! R.

Monthly Medical Abstract.

Poisoning from Eating Mushrooms.—"A case is reported of two Officers of a Belgian regiment of Cuirassiers who died at Bruges on the 10th of Oct. last, from eating mushrooms, prepared in some favorite sauce for dinner. A few hours afterwards they were both seized with horrible and agonizing colic, which kept increasing during the afternoon and night, during which one of the sufferers broke his back from the violence of his convulsions, and both died towards morning.

From the declaration of several medical men and chemists, we are apprized that the virus of the mushroom is really present in the common, or field mushroom, after a certain stage of growth."

[*Northern Lancet.*

Cases of a disease in New-Brunswick resembling Leprosy, or Greek Elephantiasis, are reported by a writer in the Boston Medical and Surg. Journal.

A number of cases of small pox have recently occured on the line of the Canal, west of this city, in the vicinity of Eagle Harbor and Middleport.

Monstrosity.—Drs. J. Cohen and M. A. Durr, Physicians of Jacksonville, Telfair co., Georgia, have in their office a curious natural phenomenon in the shape of a negro child born upon the premises of David J. Williams of that town, which weighed twelve pounds, and had two well formed and separate heads and necks, two arms and two spinal columns, three legs and feet attached, two in their natural position and the other coming out on the back of the region of the hips, with two hearts partially joined together, two lungs and other anomalies. [*Boston M. & S. Jour.*

Mrs. Willard claims to have discovered that the chief motive power of the blood is in the lungs and not in the heart. Dr. Cartwright, of New Orleans, thinks he has confirmed the theory by experiments

upon aligators. Dr. C. and Mrs. Willard are "savans" in science; but we cannot subscribe in full to their "new theory."

Insanity.—It is generally believed that women suffer from the effects of the tender passion more than men; but such does not seem to be the fact, if we take the report of the Massachusetts State Lunatic Hospital, for 1851, as a criterion to judge by. Of eighteen inmates rendered insane by affairs of the heart, eleven are males, and seven females. Of five inmates driven insane by jealousy, three are males, and two are females. The males are all married; only one of the females is a wife.

Magnesia an Antidote for poisoning with Copper.—M. Roucher, in an article upon this subject in the Gazette Medicale de Strasbourg, draws the following conclusions from experiments he made:

1st. That calcined magnesia will arrest entirely the symptoms of poisoning with copper, if it be administered sufficiently soon after the copper has been taken.

2d. That the dose of magnesia to neutralize the salt of copper is 8 grammes of magnesia to 1 of sulp. copper.

3d. That as magnesia prevents the formation of the greenish soluble salt it is quite probable that it will act as an antidote to all of the salts of copper.

In the Yale College catalogue there are names of only 37 medical students.

Mr. Tafnell, Surgeon to the Dublin Hospital, has recently written a work on the treatment of Aneurism by compression. He reports 39 cases: 30 of which are completely cured by compression; one not cured was benefitted. In two the ligature was resorted to; and in three amputation was necessary. Each instance being followed by a recovery. One died from erysipelas and two from co-existing disease of the heart.

THE TOOTHACHE.—"L'Union Medicale," a medical review at New Orleans, mentiones the success of a new remedy against the toothache. It consists in application of a piece of cotton dipped in collodion to the cavity of the tooth, to the shape of which it adapts itself, while soft, and when it becomes hardened adheres very strongly to the tooth, and is not liable to be affected by any liquid taken into the mouth.

A resolution was brought before the State Convention of Old School Physicians held recently in Albany, censuring the Faculty of the New York Medical College for having conferred an honorary

degree upon a Dr. Elliot, an "*irregular*" practitioner. It was claimed by the friends of the College that Dr. Elliot had pursued a full course of reading and attended the requisite College lectures; certificates to this effect were produced from Dr. Mott and others. How many remain in the allopathic ranks and give countenance to a routine of bleeding and calomelizing which they detest, from fear of a whipping. It behooves all medical *dough-faces* not to wink approvingly at the new fangled isms of the day.

Old School treatment of Cancer null at the present period. Prof. R. D. Truesley in a report to the National Medical Convention upon the results of old school treatment of cancer says, "he knows of but two cases operated upon in which the disease did not return in some part of the system within four years and in most of them within one year." * * * Prof. Gross observes that all his earlier operations, save one case, having turned out unfavorably, he has of late years repeatedly declined interference.

Prof. Newton of the Cincinnati E. M. Institute says "This want of success is the result of a wrong principle in operating, that is, in preserving the skin and integument to close over the part from whence the cancer is removed so as to heal the parts by first intention, allowing no opportunity for suppuration. This should not be done in any case, even when the knife is used, the parts should in all cases be subjected to caustic applications of a proper character, such as will not produce much inflammation; and in every case heal the parts by suppuration. In this way cancer may be cured just as certainly as any other disease, at least before the disease becomes constitutional which we contend is not the case permanently."

Of 59 deaths in one week, in Boston, the present month, 16 were from consumption.

Mr. Rutler, a scientific gentleman of Brighton, England, claims to have invented a machine of great delicacy, by means of which he is able to demonstrate in a satisfactory manner the polarization of the human body; the changes which occur from change of position and other circumstances. Dead animal matter, animal and vegetable effluvia, and mineral and vegetable poisons stop the motion of its pendulum. L. C. D.

TASTES.—Civilized nations chew tobacco; Hindoos, lime; Patagonians, "guano." While artificial appetites rule the world, no man has a right to repine at the inroads of disease. R.

Bibliographical Notices.

The Eclectic Dispensatory of the United States, by JOHN KING, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics and diseases of women and children in the Cincinnati E. M. Institute, etc.; etc., and ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D., Professor of Surgery in the Cincinnati E. M. Institute, etc. Authorized by the Eclectic National Medical Convention, Cincinnati: H. W. Derby & Co., publishers, 1852. 8vo. pp. 708 (From the authors.)

We have examined this work with no ordinary feelings of pleasure and hesitate not in pronouncing it a timely and most acceptable offering to the Eclectic student and to the profession generally. The long time Eclectic physicians have been compelled to wait for publications from the alumni of our own schools, is made more tolerable by the satisfaction of seeing, when published, such works as we can willingly commend to public favor and confidence. It is divided into two parts, the first of which is a concise and sufficiently complete history of all the various medicinal agents employed in the Eclectic practice, and a compact digest of their properties, uses, doses and incompatibilities. In the second part is the Eclectic Pharmacy, in which are directions for the preparation and administration of the various medicinal compounds of the Eclectic practice. In an appendix are found valuable tables of weights and measures, together with explanations of terms used in medicine, indispensable to the student, physician, and druggist, and a list of many "new remedial agents and preparations peculiar to Eclectic practice, and not to be obtained from any other medical work extant" have been introduced and carefully described. The authors have adopted the natural classification of plants as pursued by Griffith in his work on Medical Botany. It has evidently been their design to make the work as far as possible of a practical character. It is condensed, plain, and yet scientific. The publishers, Derby & Co., Cincinnati, have neglected nothing on their part to give it a good typographical finish. We heartily recommend it to our readers, and hope its sale may be fully commensurate with its true merits.

Homœopathy: An Examination of its Doctrines and Evidences, by WORTHINGTON HOOKER, M. D., author of Physician and Patient, and Medical Delusions, New York: Charles Scribner publisher, 1851. (From Erastus Darrow.)

This work placed before us for notice, exhibits in a pertinent manner many of the fallacies of exclusive Homœopathic medication.—We do not deem it necessary to enter into a consideration of

its contents; much less the motives which have led to its preparation, further than to say it is a mighty effort to defend the "regular" system as it has been from Hippocrates down, against innovations. Such of our readers as feel disposed to give the book a perusal will find embodied in it the principal objections to the Homœopathic system, and this will, doubtless, fully compensate them for the time spent in its perusal. For sale by E. Darrow, Rochester.

A Valedictory Address Delivered before the Graduating Class of the Female Med. Coll. of Pennsylvania, by Geo. F. Longshore, M. D., Published by the Graduates, Philadelphia, 1852.

This is well written, and contains many valuable reflections, and much choice advice. The writer shows a fair appreciation of the responsible relations to be sustained by those whom he addresses, and also of the important fact, that Allopathy does not comprehend all medical truth. In alluding to this subject he says:

"We are very far from viewing it (Allopathy) as the embodiment of perfection; on the contrary we are free to admit, that it is not all that we could desire it to be, notwithstanding it is the acumen of the concentrated wisdom of the world. Most if not all the other systems contain much, and none are so sparse of truth as to be unworthy of your investigation. Reject nothing as worthless until you have proved it to be so. Perhaps, when the intricate but harmonious relations existing between mind and matter, and the laws governing them come to be better comprehended, and the adaptation of the remedial agents to the abnormal conditions of both better understood, there may be a harmonizing of the truth principle prevading the whole and a more perfect and beautiful system erected; one calculated to meet with a much greater degree of certainty the conditions of our suffering nature. Hence it becomes the true philosophy to condemn nothing because it is new; but investigate all in a truth-seeking spirit."

Few addresses of the kind are more replete with interest and considerate advice. We regard the following as very much to the purpose and will not with-hold it from our readers.

In entering opon the duties of your profession, an arduous and responsible one, let the stand you shall take be high. Entertain a due appreciation of yourselves and your abilities. Be generous and magnanimous;—recognize none as your *superiors*, treat none as your *inferiors*; to those who regard you unfavorably, be kind, affable and courteous, yet dignified and self-respecting. You may be required, at times, to assume inferior positions, and expected to take upon yourselves inferior duties—but never consent to this, except in cases of extreme necessity. Have nothing to do with the duties of the nurse, or assistant in the sick room, further than to exercise a supervision, give directions and require obedience. Your time, means and energies

have been directed towards a higher and more responsible position than a performer of the mere drudgery of the invalid's chamber; and that position it is yours to maintain. But when stern necessity requires of you a helping hand, be ever ready, ever willing; then what, at other times would be a menial office, becomes one of the most exalted. Never allow interference with your prescriptions, either by the patient, nurse or friends. The responsibility of the case rests upon you alone, and if you permit your judgment to be arrested, and your prescriptions interdicted, you have no guaranty for the safety of the patient, or the preservation of your reputation. L. C. D.

Miscellany.

UTOPIA MADE EASY—Information of very startling character has just been received at our office.—What? Ahem! there—our pen renders again, and we haste to *diffuse* the intelligence.

By Mr. NEXT-CENTURY'S recently patented Universal Self-directing Terraqueous Telegraph, (by which it will be remembered, the Strata of the earth's crust are made to act as an infinite number of conducting wires, conveying messages in any conceivable direction,—the direction in any given case being determined by the *impressional* line connecting the *plus pole*, or communcat*or*, and the *minus pole*, or communicat*ee*,) advices of great interest have just been received from New York City. Last evening there were very suspicious quassations and succussions among the atomic components of our office floor, but these, although evidently *telegraphic*, were disregarded. To day, doubt has left us, pocketing his very shadow before he went; "and the rapping, and the tapping, beneath our chamber floor," gave unmistakable intelligence of a *mammoth movement* shaking this sublunary shell, somewhere in the region of the Metropolitan City. We have recently heard some wonderful intelligence from the region of a very vivacious, and withal, queenly City, somewhere down Southwest; but that is nothing compared with the information we are just about preparing to promulgate. Our telegraphic report is as follows:

"MARVELOUS EXCITEMENT! REFORM RE-EDUCATED!! PROGRESS REVISED, AND ISSUED IN A NEW EDITION!!!—A Multifarious College is to be opened forthwith in the Metropolitan City. *Everybody* is to be radical; and *every radical* to receive a *perfect* education in everything, especially Medicine. *Every such Student* is to be educated *Scot free*, and receive a *bonus* into the bargain; as all "outside barbarians" and hunkerish conservatives are to be taxed to pay the Matri-

culation, Dissecting, and Graduation fees, as also to meet the heavy expenses of board in a large city, traveling charges, and the bonus aforesaid!

Great is the multifarious College! Nine cheers for every body!"

PEREGRINATIONS OF A NEEDLE.—A young man, named Greensmith, in Halifax, Eng., swallowed a full-sized needle. For a short time he felt a painful sensation in his throat; but this soon passed off. No farther indication of the presence of the offending body occurred, until about three years after, when a peculiar headache, one morning, directed his attention to a particular part of his head, and he drew out from the point, the needle, which he found protruding through the scalp.

M. DANCEL, of France, claims that excessive corpulency is relieved by an almost total abstinence from vegetables, and starchy substances, using little fluid, and, if necessary, increasing the quantity of meat. The idea has some foundation in organic chemistry; but one would prefer to try such an experiment very cautiously, at the first.

FANATICISM.—A man named Gable died some time since, at Knightstown, Ind. He took no food for two weeks previous to his death, and had burnt both his hands by holding them to the fire, to draw out, as he said, the electricity in them. He was laboring under a popular delusion of the day. Truly, there is that in man's brain, which can trifle sadly with his body and mind, and all their powers, if it will!

ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA.—The commencement exercises of this College have recently been held. We have not learned the exact number of attendants or graduates of the past winter, but judge, from all we do learn, that the school is increasing in interest and profit. T. H. Cooke, M. D., is Dean of the Faculty, to whom all communications desiring further information, may be addressed.

NATIONAL ECLECTIC MEDICAL CONVENTION.—Physicians at a distance have requested us to announce the time of meeting of this body; and as some may wish to be informed previous to the issue of a Notice by the regularly constiituted Officers of the National E. M. Society, we proceed to communicate the information. By a vote passed at its last Session, in Pittsburgh, the Convention meets this year, at Rochester, N. Y., on the SECOND TUESDAY IN MAY. R.

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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Eclectic Physicians and Colleges.

An Introductory Lecture, delivered in C. M. College, Nov. 3d, 1851.

BY PROF. L. C. DOLLEY.

I would be glad, did my time permit, to notice many of the improvements in the Eclectic Materia Medica and Practice, which give to Eclectic Physicians their superior success. I will here notice a few of them. Many deleterious and disease-creating agents are boldly laid aside. One prominent measure of Old School Medication, the frequent use of the lancet in all febrile, inflammatory, and congestive diseases, is universally rejected in the Eclectic practice in these diseases. The human system has less vital power in disease, than in health, and that little should be sustained. That depletion, for depletion's sake, by the lancet, or otherwise, is ever necessary we believe to be an opinion most erroneous and destructive. The best physicians of every school are agreed, that the effects of venesection are to disturb the equilibrium of the circulation, to diminish the nervous energies, and to lessen the powers of vital resistance; and that its effect to calm irritation is only temporary. The loss of the vital fluid, in most if not all diseases, is not only an unnecessary, but a serious loss, to accomplish ends more readily secured by other measures.

A system of practice, to be successful must dispense with venesection, and many harsh, irritating, and frequently uncontrollable me-

dicines in daily use with the great mass of allopathic physicians.—Preparations of mercury, antimony, arsenic, and several other powerful mineral agents, which are so conspicuous in the orthodox routine practice, are in many particulars so remote in their character and constitution from organized animal matter, as to render them very inappropriate to influence properly the latter, when taken into the system. Such, the eclectic system rejects in toto. It is not purely a popular prejudice, that these medicines, as administered by every allopathic practitioner, are constantly planting the seeds of immediate suffering, or some form of chronic disease. How many cases of liver complaint, paralysis, stiffened limbs, dropsies, disfigured faces, and ruined constitutions, should be referred to the prevalent employment of venesection, mercury, antimony, and arsenic. These medicines, against which the inhabitants of every town, city, hill, valley and hamlet, are lifting their voices,—against which science and common sense pleads, we willingly, joyfully "*throw to the dogs.*" In the choice of medicines, the eclectic physician assumes the very safe position, *to use or countenance the use of none, under the ordinary circumstances of the administration of which, disastrous consequences may follow.*

In improving the Materia Medica, Eclectics have not only brought into use quite a list of new remedies, but have done more in developing new virtues in, and calling attention to, old remedies, particularly our indigenous materia medica, water, and its many invaluable applications in disease, &c., &c. The popular Dispensatories make but brief, if any allusion to very many remedial measures, that are prominent in the Eclectic system of practice. The descriptions of those given are not only brief, but frequently imperfect and erroneous; being spoken of more as simple adjuncts, than as principal means. With Old School authors and teachers, scarcely any thing has been thought worthy of notice and consideration as a curative measure, unless first recomended and approved by European writers and teachers, notwithstanding the great value, and the better adaptation of our indigenous articles of medicine to the diseases of this country. Our allopathic authors and teachers have manifested great servility and blindness in thus following slavishly European medicine. A large share of our medicines are preparations of indigenous plants; of course suffering little or nothing from age, importation, and adulteration. Many of these are now used wholly in a very concentrated and convenient form, as the podophyllin, macrotin, leptandrin, apocynin, rhusine, cypripedin; &c., &c.

I believe that every well informed eclectic practitioner appreciates highly the various hydropathic appliances, and the more recent improvements in hygeine, diet, &c. Hydropathy is working a mighty revolution in our country and the influence and tendencies of no exclusive system are more salutary. The Eclectic system would not be true to itself, true to science and humanity, unless it sought to include the most valuable features of the water-cure practice. We hope all of those who go out from our institution to practice the heal-

ing art, will appreciate the potency of, and know how to apply where indicated, the *pack*, the *dripping sheet*, the *douche*, the *sitz*, and the various other baths; yet they need not therefore assume that

> "Disease is dirt! all pain the patient feels,
> Is but the soiling of the vital wheels;
> To wash away all particles impure,
> And cleanse the system, plainly, is to cure."

Very many diseases, Eclectic physicians treat partly or wholly with hydropathic measures; yet they are not to let the excellences of the hydropathic system so dazzle their eyes as to prevent them from adopting relevant measures from other systems, which will often greatly expedite the cure of disease.

I have already alluded to the superior success of the eclectic treatment of some surgical diseases, as fistula, cancers, hemorrhoids, &c. I can speak but briefly of other improvements in surgical practice.— Surgeons have not heretofore had sufficient confidence in the curative power of nature in surgical diseases and injuries, and have manifested too much fondness for operating. Surgery, as expressed by one writer, "is too mechanical; it is an attempt by harsh and severe means to march directly to the point, across high-ways and by-ways, and to take the business entirely out of the hands of nature, instead of aiding her by mild and congenial measures in the fulfillment of her own infallible indications." Under the superior measures of the eclectic practice for preventing and reducing inflammatory action, in treating fractures, contusions, &c.; they find it necessary to operate much less frequently than old school physicians. Not a little superiority is also claimed for eclectic practice in the treatment of white swellings, old ulcers, varicose enlargements and ophthalmia.

Thus, Ladies and Gentlemen, you can see much in the broad and liberal basis of the American Eclectic System, and its more harmless and efficient measures of cure, to recommend it to you. Our system suffers much from many unworthy and base pretenders. Many of very limited and superficial medical attainments, and no estimation of honor or usefulness, aware that the convictions of the public favor the rational and true course sought by Eclectics, style themselves such, and in many sections are daily imposing upon the afflicted public. When I see so many attempting to pass themselves off as Eclectics who are actuated by none other than the most selfish considerations, with no regard for the higher and nobler claims of science, I almost think our cause is in the hands of the Philistines! Shall a cause whose motto is *progression and truth*, have its energies crushed, or suffer long from those who would disgrace its career, and blast its prospects? I sincerely trust that I am addressing young ladies and gentlemen who have entered their studies full of zeal and enthusiasm; —whose youthful and ingenuous spirits are warmed with high aspirings after true excellence and distinction. I hope none have come here supposing that any superior merits the electic system may possess, can confer upon them usefulness or eminence, without patient toil and persevering industry in themselves. No one will suppose that your object to this city is amusement, and that you are to spend

your mornings in promenading the streets, and your evenings in visiting the theater and attending parties." You are aware that no pretensions or name you can arrogate, will confer the permanent honor upon yourselves, and bestow the benefits upon your communities and your profession, that must result from scientific worth and excellence. If you will only pay the price, the prize will be won. There is no royal road to knowledge,—there is no institution that can confer intrinsic merit,—there are no natural talents that can confer upon their possessor learning by intuition. All information worth obtaining, must be obtained by persevering toil.

Disentangled as you are from the prejudices and shackles of exclusive theories, you can do much to help us rescue the profession from its unhallowed keeping. I hope your ambition is such that you cannot consent to let your attainments and success remain second to those of many of your compeers. I hope that your honorable strivings may be such as will achieve for yourselves and our cause, as far as exertion and true excellence can achieve it, the first place in the race of honor and usefulness.

I can but very briefly notice some of the advantages peculiar to Central Medical College. On account of the acknowledged literary and moral character of the City of Rochester, we are highly favored in being located here. Perhaps no city in our country of its size affords so many advantages, and so few corrupting influences. While none of the disadvantages attending institutions located in villages, can affect us, we escape also, to a great extent, those causes existing in larger cities, of both physical and moral disease.

The superior inducements and facilities offered by our institution for the Medical Education of females, are not among its minor claims to public favor. Those independent and science-loving ladies in our country, who wish to acquire a knowledge of, and practice a part or the whole of the duties of the medical profession, find here, in both Gentlemen and Lady Professors, a hearty welcome.

We know we cannot boast of great power or wealth, or governmental aid; we are content to hazard the fame of our institution on the truthfulness and justice of its principles, the talent and zeal of its professors, and the credit due its diplomas. We know there are rivals in the field. We see in those who have long monopolized all medical honor and emoluments powerful opponents and foes. We fear not, nay, we desire so see honorable competition in teaching. What was it that gained for the University of Edinburg, and the London University, celebrity and names of which Great Britain may well be proud? Was it either wealth or intrigue that placed these institutions among the very first in the world? No, the University of London was organized under the auspices of some of the most enlightened men of the age—men who declined all extrinsic aid, and preferred that their school should stand upon the merits of its principles and professors, rather than be sustained by the influence of a royal charter. To the talents and genius of Black, Cullen, the Monroes, Gregorys, Hamiltons, and Duncans, urged on in the prosecution of science by the rivalry of their neighbors, the University of Edin-

burgh owes its fame. They received no pecuniary assistance from the Crown; competition encouraged and stimulated them to constant exertion, to concentrate their talents and energies upon that school which it was their pride to have equal to the best in Europe. Such zeal for science and truth is commendable and worthy of imitation; its results demonstrate the important truth, that real excellence in scientific institutions, will always triumph when they are guided by pure and honorable motives. Convinced as we are that our cause contains the elements of truth and success, we boldly enter the field of competition not to be daunted or discouraged by any want of immediate encouragement, or any calumny and misrepresentation of our enemies. We shall now go on heart and hand, earnestly, devotedly, and unitedly, laboring for the cause of Eclecticism, and the interests of Central Medical College, satisfied that if "union is strength," we are strong.

Strive, Ladies and Gentlemen, to distinguish yourselves individually, and thus give character and permanence to your college and your cause. In doing this you will honor your profession, promote your own interests, secure the grateful acknowledgment of an afflicted multitude, and the heart-cheering satisfaction of your own usefulness.

On the Influence of Agricultural Pursuits on the Health.

BY C. H. CLEAVELAND, M. D.

Physicians, in order to be able to remove diseases, or to preserve the health of those who confine their physical well-being to their care, should acquaint themselves with the influences the various occupations have upon the health of those engaged in them. Without this knowledge, not only are they prevented from doing the good they otherwise would be capable of, but in many instances, their misdirected efforts must be productive of decidedly injurious results.

To discuss this matter in all its bearings would require that volumes be written, yet in the small space that can be allowed in the columns of the "*Journal*," something of the importance of the subject can be shown, and a few remarks—meagre though they must be—can be made, that may be of interest to the general reader, and perhaps not unprofitable to the practitioner, especially if the writer confines himself to one occupation, or to one *class* of occupations in each paper he contributes.

By far the largest number of the people in the rural districts are more or less engaged in agriculture, especially the *male* portion of the population; and the *females* of families living upon farms, are, although in a less degree, exposed likewise to those *peculiar* influences that tend to affect the constitutions and the health of agriculturists.

Farmers are greatly exposed to the various changes of the weather, more so, probably, than any other class of people who reside in the

country, except physicians. They are under the necessity of attending to their cattle, their fences, and their crops, without regard to the state of the weather, and are, therefore, peculiarly liable to colds, coughs, rheumatism and fevers. They are likewise liable to over-exert themselves, for their labor is not only very fatiguing, but it is, during the long days of the "haying and harvesting" seasons, prolonged oftentimes until the system seems completely exhausted. The quality and the quantity of food is often such as must tend to derange the organs of digestion; and where work drives, it is too often eaten in such unnatural haste as to severely task the digestive apparatus, even if it were taken of the proper quality and amount. Their food is composed of too great a proportion of salted meat, and is very seldom properly prepared. It is supposed to require but a small amount of culinary skill to cook a piece of salt beef or pork, or to boil vegetables, or bake beans. Still less attention is given to the proper preparation of farinaceous articles of diet, or to supply fruits properly prepared and in sufficient quantities, for the farmer's table; for it is frequently remarked of the farm laborer, that his severe toil gives him an appetite and a digestion equal to that of a horse, and his hunger will cause him to relish any thing—so there is no *need* of being *particular* in regard to the preparation of his food.

While the farmer is very attentive to the effects of the various kinds of food upon his domestic *animals*, changing *their* diet as experience and observation has taught him is necesssary for their health, he has given but very little thought to the subject of diet for himself or those of his household.

Again, farmers are, as a class, entirely ignorant of the influence the *location* of their houses may have upon the health of their inmates. If it be more *convenient* to have the pig-pen or the farm-yard immediately adjoining the parlor or the cook-room, so that all may enjoy the perfume that arises therefrom, or to allow all the wash and the slops of the kitchen to accumulate and ferment near the windows of the sleeping rooms, there, while surrounded with a rank growth of poisonous vegetables, to distil the very essence of disease and death; this, and the aroma from the compost heap, is allowed to assail the nostrils of all, until the schneiderian membrane is as little annoyed by the stench, as are the palatal nerves of the tobacco chewer by the presence of his favorite quid.

With all these sources of disease, and many others of less magnitude, that press with greater force upon the vital powers of the farmer than upon those of his neighbor who is engaged in other pursuits, it is found that agriculturists, as a class, are less liable to disease, and are longer-lived than other members of the community.

During the twenty months preceding the first of January, 1850, there were reported, in the State of Massachusetts, the death of 4974 *farmers*, and these died at the *average* age of 63.83 years. Of those styled *laborers*, 2283 were reported to have died in that State during the same period of time. These were in good part men who were engaged on farms, as house servants, and in any chance employ where they could earn a day's wages, and doubtless they had less healthy

habitations and food than those for whom they labored. They attained to the average age of 45.39 years, or nearly 18½ years less than the average for farmers.

In the report for the year 1850, we find recorded the deaths of 886 agriculturists, who had attained to the average age of 65.13 years, or about 1½ more than those reported the previous year. In this report are also recorded the deaths 707 *laborers*, at an average age of 44.14 years, or over a year *less* than that attained by the same class, as recorded in the previous report.

As a contrast between different occupations, or the influence occupation had upon the life of those who followed them, it may be well to say, that during the latter period, there are reported the deaths of 268 *shoemakers*, whose lives had averaged only 44.87 years, and 26 tailors, who averaged only 41.38 years, showing that those who follow those occupations, although they labor under shelter, unexposed to the inclemencies of the weather, are nevertheless exposed to *other* causes, that tend to reduce their lives to over 20 *years less* than that attained, on an average, by agriculturists.

If we consider that individuals do not usually enter upon the active duties of any occupation so as to be entitled to be *classed* with those who follow that for a livelihod, before they arrive at 18 years of age, we shall find that while farmers work *as farmers* 47 years, shoemakmakers and tailors work at their occupations, on an average, but 25 years.

It is but proper to learn, if possible, *what causes* there are which counterbalance those enumerated as prejudicial to the health and life of agriculturists, and which insure them, on an average, an existence for nearly double the number of years that are reasonably to be expected by those of the sedentary habits of the tailor or the shoemaker.

Among the most prominent causes of the great comparative longevity of the agricultural class, no doubt we should find the fact that their labor is performed where they can breathe the atmosphere in its purity, while they are enjoying the vivifying influence of the direct rays of the sun. With a pure atmosphere for the lungs during labor, where the inspirations are deepest and most frequent, and with the blessed sunshine, a man's system becomes prepared to resist the ordinary injurious impressions that otherwise would produce a very deleterious effect upon him. The farmer's exercise is of that kind that gives play to all his muscles, and not one set alone, as is the case in some other occupations. Therefore he is less liable to accumulations of effete matter, lodged in some part of the system that only need a small amount of foreign poison to produce a ferment, and consequent fever.

The farmer's mind is free from the anxiety and the turmoil and trouble attendant upon trade and traffic. He is not obliged to dispose of the product of his labor as soon as produced, to procure bread for himself and family, for his food is mainly produced upon his own land, and he is consequently exempt from those pangs of

conscience which must at times harass those whose "business is to cheat each other, for a living." Consequently his appetite is good, his digestion perfect, and his sleep sound and refreshing.

There is yet another cause for this extraordinary exemption from disease and death. This is the fact, that almost all who follow agricultural pursuits for a livelihood, are the offspring of parents of the same class, and their parents had been too busily occupied during their childhood to spend time in dosing them with *Tincture of Rhubarb, Paregoric, Godfrey's Cordial, Hot Drops, Soothing Syrup, &c., &c.,* after they had crammed their stomachs with cakes and confectionary, or half decayed fruit, which forms so large a part of the aliment, and the *ailment* of the children of cities.

Being thus exempt, their systems have become more perfectly developed, and consequently they are able to endure, without material injury, fatigue and exposure that would destroy persons of a less hardy constitution, but when they do become sick, they require much larger doses of medicine than others of a less robust make.

WATERBURY, Vt., March, 1852.

On the New Physiological Doctrines of a New Physiological Era.

BY PROF. L. REUBEN.

(*Continued from page* 97.)

But the last and grandest contribution of the microscope to physiology, is that of our own immediate times—the CELL DOCTRINE.

It may be worth the while to endeavor to gain a clear idea of the origin and nature of this fundamental doctrine of modern physiology.

What is this doctrine of cells, and on what evidence is it founded? I answer:

Bodies, of exceedingly minute size, and having the appearance of *little sacs, or bladders,* consisting of a delicate, transparent, membranous envelope, without visible pores, or other outlet, and yet filled with peculiar fluids, and capable of passing fluids through their walls, in either direction—such bodies, I say, have for some years past been discovered to exist in the juicy parts of growing plants, and in nearly all the soft parts of human and other animal bodies. These minute structures have been named *cells*, but if they had been termed *sacs*, or *bubblets*, the name would have better suggested their true character. The existence of these, and many facts relating to them, were known previously to the investigations of SCHWANN, the German physiologist, who first assigned to them their due importance.

Schwann, however, collected and compared the scattered facts, as Newton did those relating to the actions of bodies moving through space; and he arrived at a generalization almost, if not quite, as startling and as valuable to science, as did the great Natural Philosopher.

Schwann found these cells, as I have said, present in nearly all the soft parts of plants and animals, and in all the circulating fluids of the latter.

He found that in those parts in which the most active vital processes were going on, these cells were most numerous, and present in their simplest and most natural form. They were abundant in the liver of animals and all other glands, in the blood, about the origin of the lacteals, on the surfaces of membranes, and in the gray or active matter of the nervous system.

He found that as the structures of the body departed from the condition of highest vital activity, so did they depart from the original cellular structure. Thus the cartilages, bones, and fibrous tissues showed comparatively few cells, and sometimes none.

He found that in many of these non-cellular structures, remnants and traces of cells could be discovered, indicating that they had undergone a change from the original cellular type. This was true of cartilages, bones, and teeth, and also of the capillary, nervous, and other tubes and vessels.

He found that those animals and plants which grow rapidly, which are soft in structure, and which never manifest any great complexity of organs, or high grade of functions, remained during their whole lives almost entirely composed of a simple aggregation of cells.

He found that the nearer the observer approaches to the commencement of vital activity in the embryo of the plant or animal, the greater was the predominance of cells over all other structures in its organs, and in the entire fabric.

He found that the *ovum* of the human and other animal species, was, at a very early period of its existence, nothing but a globular mass of cells, enveloped in a film of membrane.

He found certain vegetable bodies floating in stagnant water, and many animalcules also, to be in reality but so many solitary cells, which yet had the power of growth and reproduction; and some peculiar species have since been shown to be endowed with the power of motion, and of catching and devouring their prey!

How these apparently paradoxical results are brought about, as they are in the *Amoeba*, I have not time to explain, but must refer the curious to Carpenter's "Elements of General and Comparative Physiology," new edition, or to a notice of the work in the October No. of the British and Foreign Med. Chir. Review.

From facts now stated respecting the cells found in vegetable and animal bodies, Schwann drew the following conclusions:

1. That all the tissues, or textures of the bodies of plants and animals, originate in cells.

2. That those of the fully formed tissues, not of a distinct cellular type, consist of cells transformed during their growth, as by elongation, internal deposit, tubular union, &c.

Schwann, however, had fallen short of the truth in some directions, as much as he had, in his enthusiasm, exceeded it in others; and it remained for Schleiden, Valentin, Wagner and Bischoff to correct his errors, and give the cell-doctrine to the world in its present perfected form. That doctrine may now be thus stated:

1. *Every plant and every animal, no matter how complex in the end, originates alike in a single cell.*

2. *No matter whatever can enter into the proper tissues of the plant or animal until it has been elaborated and rendered organizable under the agency of vegetable or animal cells.*

3. *Most* (not all) *of the vegetable and animal tissues are primarily cellular in their type.*

4. *Many of the tissues, not apparently cellular, consist in reality of transformed cells.*

The probability now is, that the simple expanded membranes, and the simple fibrous tissues, are not of cell origin, so far as their structure is concerned, but are produced by direct consolidation of organizable material. Yet it must be remembered that this material owes its capability of organization to the previous action of cells upon it. It may be noticed here, in passing, that the only tissue denominated *cellular* by the old physiologists, has, in reality, nothing cellular about it, being one of the fibrous textures just mentioned! It is now denominated *Areolar.*

As a corollary to the cell-doctrine, it follows *that each cell in the complex human body is an independent organization;* that it lives *in and for* itself, runs its own race as an individual, and dies when that race is run, being dependent upon the body only for the heat and nutriment which are conditions of its growth, and which, at the same time, it owes to the previous action of other cells like itself.

In this view of the case, man supports a group of parasites (cells) in his liver, and these parasites pay him rent in a tri-daily supply of bile, a product of their labor on their own account! So man supports another group of parasites in the intestinal villi, about the commencement of the lacteal canals, and these pay rent by introducing into the vessels the materials of the blood. They are grateful creatures—the service they render is no trifle. Yet it is hardly, if at all, possible to distinguish these from the gnawing cancer-cells, which devour the noble organs of action, thought and feeling, and leave man a frightful wreck.

How wonderful then the skill and adaptation manifested in the healthy human body, by which so vast a number of isolated and independent individuals, each pursuing its own peculiar actions in its own peculiar way, is made to contribute to a totality of phenomena and powers, so harmonious, so beautiful, so sublime, as MAN. Truly, the study of physiology must help to enlarge our conceptions of Omniscience, and to exalt our veneration for Him who is omniscient.

The cell-doctrine is emphatically a discovery of our own immediate times. The man who first announced it, and the men who labored on and brought it to its present perfection, are still living, and still prosecuting their physiological researches. It is now, indeed, only FOURTEEN YEARS since this fundamental doctrine in physiology was brought to light. How strikingly does this fact proclaim the backwardness and imperfection which have characterized the medical sciences; how clearly does it show that all theories and ideas of dis-

ease and cure founded upon the knowledge [or rather *ignorance*] and hypotheses of past times, must be unsafe guides for the physician, and may prove false and fatal in their influence; and in how absurd a light does it set forth those who claim veneration and conformity alone for the past and its ignorance, to the utter exclusion of the present with its first dawn of enlightenment! But a sun is about to rise that shall never set, and we will cheerfully bid adieu to the *stars*, though it be but to try our vision on objects seen through the opening twilight.

(*To be Continued*).

Case in Practice.

BY A. D. SKELLENGER, M. D.

FRIEND L. C. DOLLEY—SIR: permit me to address you as formerly—*beloved preceptor*, notwithstanding your *preferment* to the "*editorial chair*," in which there has been no violation of Dr. Noah Webster's principle, who says: "All preferment should be given to competent men." *Progression* is a leading article of our medical faith, and in that are implied mutations in the scientific and political world. Such has clearly been! the history of "C. M. College," and the "*Eclectic Journal of Medicine*,". Never have changes been effected in the Faculty or editorial department better calculated to advance the cause of independent, scientific, original and rationally efficient medication, within the influence of the same, in the Empire State, than those which have characterized your movements for the past year.

You now have for your colleagues gentlemen of erudition, in whose integrity and ability the young men of the United States may and will place great confidence. No institution of learning can long maintain an honorable position in this country, without having connected therewith considerable intellectual *stamina*, and the facilities and instrumental paraphernalia for illustration. That intellectual force, or moral and mental stamina you now have and the other important prerequisite—the *facilities*, are rapidly accumulating.—With a band of earnest workers, thus equipped, battling in one of the dearest interests of suffering humanity, your College must soon be placed among the best medical schools in the New World, and so far as available resources will go in counteracting the morbid effects of both disease and *mal*-medication, it is already in advance of any London or Paris College which base their treatment for antiphlogistic effect, and their chief reliance in all inflammatory affections, on the lancet, calomel, antimo et pot. tart.,* et hoc genus omne!

It has been my wish to see the *only* independent school of medicine in all the Eastern, Middle, or Southern States, placed in an elevated and commanding position! I wish to see all sectarianism, prejudice, ignorance, and malign-hawkeyed-detesto-contracto-bigotry in medicine, recede before the genial illumination of truth and science. And

*Tartar emetic.

in the pages of your excellent journal I hope no one will advocate the falsely named *anti-poison*, *anti-mineral*, or *anti-hydriatic* doctrines, but that all ignorant exclusiveness may give place to *Orthiatice*, or *Nature's Universal Cure!*

It has been asked, "What is DR. STEEENROSE?" "Has he joined the 'Hunkers' in all their barbarities and life-destroying practices?" To all true friends who may have entertained such unjust and unwarrantable apprehensions, and especially to PROF. B. L. HILL, a scholar, and reformer, of whom I always endeavored to entertain a just appreciation, and who, I am credibly informed, made the above inquiries when not more than one half hour's ride from my office, (last season, about the time his views were being "*potentized*" to the decillionth "dilution" of sugar of milk, starch, Acon., Bry., Pul., N. Vom., &c., &c.—to such, I repeat, I desire to give one emphatic response in the negative!

I am no *Hunker*, and wish to be excused from calling any medical gentleman or school by so harsh a title. I am no sectarian in religion, politics or medicine; but an INDEPENDENT; a SEARCHER for medical truth; ever ready and willing to embrace any view or truth which is superior to that I have previously acted upon. I am not willing to throw away all that is valuable in European Pathology, or American Therapeutics. Neither am I so great a gormandizer of the *new* and *marvelous*, as to swallow all crude, indigestible "parallels" or "theories," which have more of novelty and imagination for their vouchers, than knowledge or observation.

As I designed my communication at this time to be of a practical character, I will proceed to give you a condensed report of a somewhat rare and interesting *case* in my practice.

CASE.—While on a professional tour on the 7th ult., I was called, at 2 o'clock P. M., to attend Mrs. R. in her seventh labor. She is about 31 years of age, a tall, and rather stoutly made woman, of the sanguino-bilious temperament. Her health had not been very good for several previous months, requiring some little medical attendance and treatment. During the fifth month of her gestation she had likewise received a fall while walking, on some blocks of wood, striking on the right pubo-iliac region. This caused severe pain, which lasted several days, more or less excruciating; after which it principally subsided, leaving only a dull pain or disagreeable sensation, and a slight warmth. Of this accident and partial suffering, I remained *entirely ignorant* till *after* parturition.

On entering her room I discovered nothing worthy of note, except an unusual degree of anxiety and considerable fear. *Flooding* had commenced 12 hours prior to my visit, of which she remarked, "I have never been in such a way with any of my other children."

The *Hemorrhage* still continued at the probable rate of an *ounce* per hour. Pains, not severe or frequent, being both "regular, irregular, and defective," and labor throes, evidently of the "dilating" class. Pulse 90, full and compressible. I made no further inquiries or examination; advising her to keep as quiet as possible, I left for my office, (about half a mile distant,) informing her of my intention to be

back within *two hours*. I must own I was apprehensive of a protracted and difficult case. The *hemorrhage* caused me to fear I might encounter *Placenta Prævia*, notwithstanding, in such unfortunate occurrences we generally have a hemorrhagic condition from the commencement of the eighth month of pregnancy, yet, as Prof. Meigs says, this "is in some instances not discovered, or even suspected to exist, until the labor at full term comes on." Consequently I placed my case of obstetrical instruments where a messenger could easily find it, and taking a "labor harness," (an instrument of great utility in protracted labors,) I returned at 4 P. M.; found her about as I had left; her pulse a little more frequent—98 per minute, pains *vagrant, harassing, grinding*, and nearly powerless. *Flooding* continued. I made no vaginal examination till about 7 o'clock in the evening. I then ascertained what I could of the condition of the various parts, and found the perineum and labia slightly affected by *Œdema*; vagina humid and yielding; the os uteri dilated about two inches in diameter, edges thin, soft, moist, and easily dilatable; vertex presenting high above the promontory of the sacrum, and some hours subsequent found to be of the second position.

All these conditions, save the œdema, were as favorable as we generally find them, so far, at least as I was able to discover, and I could see no sufficient reason why labor should not progress at this particular stage. True, as I have before stated, the pains were *vagrant*, leaving almost entirely for an hour or two; and when present they were, as the women say, "tormenting," or such as *Prof. O. Davis* would call *powerless pains*. At this time there was no exhaustion, and *why* should all the efforts of labor prove abortive? It was more than I could tell, for I knew nothing of her previous "fall."

She was supported by the "harness," and all done for her comfort and enjoyment which sympathy or science could suggest; yet the case lingered. Examinations were re-instituted at distant intervals, say 11 P. M., 3 and 7 A. M., with some evidence of a painful, exhausting, progressive labor, or more properly, *state*.

By 10 A. M., pulse 110 per minute; mind irritable and foreboding, and her physical strength failing under the long protraction of labor. Due attention was paid to her position, and the advancement of the head of the child, which all this time, now 28 hours, had been mysteriously tardy. From 10 to 12 M., pains frequent and very severe, "bearing down" in character. Head now engaged in the pelvis, and her sufferings almost unendurable, and the anxiety and intensity of feeling which all the assistants experienced, cannot be described. The fearful cries, sobs, groans, and calls for aid, could not fail to pierce the most unfeeling heart.

I assured her, the husband and all, that so far as I was able to discern, all was right; that the external parts offered all the resistance I could see, (and these we fomented;) that in a few minutes of patience longer, all would be over. They had implicit confidence in what I said, yet I am frank in saying, that *money* can never make recompense to the faithful accoucheur for his delicate responsibility and anxiety on such ocasions.

From 12 M. to a quarter of 1, the pains were very severe and frequent, the progress still slow, at which time the amnion became ruptured, and the work now progressed during the most fearful throes I ever witnessed, till 1 P. M., when she was happily delivered. I should have said the most important portion of the delivery remained to be accomplished.

Secale Cornutum (ergot) had been administered 30 minutes prior to the birth of the child, with a view to the prompt expulsion of the secundines. But the ergot, friction, and all other usual means failed to produce any uterine contractions, She was fearfully flooding; and though I did not apprehend any "hour-glass contraction," yet I did believe, and told her so, that there must be some adhesions; and after waiting some twenty minutes, decided to trust to nature no longer. Accordingly I insinuated my hand and arm into the uterus, and with the extremities of my thumb and forefinger, gently as possible detached about one-third of the placental mass from the inner wall of the uterus. A most painful operation indeed. That portion where the two surfaces had been attached, presented numerous points and spots of a dark red color; the whole size enlarged, and this portion indurated, making a fine pathological specimen. I should remark, that, on removing the afterbirth, *blood* flowed so rapidly she lost six ounces in a very few minutes! I immediately gave her tannin, gr. vj., pulv. opii, gr. iss., and *encased her entire abdomen in snow* taken from a pail of water, and the same applied to the genitals. Hemorrhage soon stopped, and she was put to bed in dry garments, and a cloth wrung out of cold water kept across the abdomen over the "binders." The inflammation, so much to be feared, was kept down by cold saline baths, and she quieted by a small diaphoretic powder. On the 2d day, a little fever. On the 3d, bowels acted on by castor oil and turpentine. *Bathings* and good care enabled her in two weeks to be about her house at work. I have not room for remarks. All will see why the pains were as described, when they know that *one-third part of the womb could not act.*

RUGGLES, O., Feb. 1852.

Conditions of Health. No. 1—Food.

BY PALEMON JOHN, M. D.

There are certain classes in society whose composition is such as to permit them to indulge and gratify every taste and appetite for a long while without feeling any particular injury resulting from their "eating, drinking, and being merry." These cases, however, do not invalidate the truth of the axiom that every violation of law is followed by a penalty; for although, in their indulgences and excesses in the gratification of their appetites and passions, they experience no immediate inconvenience, they almost universally feel the *effects* in old age, when this course of life suffers the "vital lamp" to burn so

long. The fires of disease may for a while be checked and concealed, but the hour of retribution *will* come; at an unlooked for period, a worse than volcanic eruption *will* occur, or the wick of vitality will be prematurely consumed by the hidden but perpetual burning.— From whence come *dyspepsia*, with all its attendant train of "sick dejection," and horror, and *gout*, with its ill-nature and pain? From whence the haggard expression and distorted features, the turbid eye and leaden cheek? From what source originate the innumerable cases of nervous affections, and "head disorders," which come to us for relief? Do we not find the former among the lovers of wine and good tables, and the latter caused by the over indulgence of the appetites and passions? Almost invariably so. And it has occurred to me this evening—having just been prescribing for some such—that it would not prove unprofitable to indulge in a few plain sensible remarks, upon habits that are so prolific in depredation upon

"Health,—the poor man's riches,—the rich man's bliss."

The universal testimony of distinguished writers upon Hygeine, has been that both upon the *quality* and the *quantity* of our *food*, and our *beverages*, very much depend the harmonious operation of our bodies: and the experience of a Carnaro and a Cheyne whose anti-epicurean habits so powerfully contributed to their longevity, and elasticity of spirit, show the advantage—the pleasures—the *happiness* resulting from a prudent discrimination in our eating and drinking.— Indeed while they indulged in pleasing the palate, life lost all its sweetness, their existence appeared a perpetual curse; but when they came to the determination to leave off taking late suppers, and abandon the "social bowl," when they established a regimen of the *plainest* and *simplest* kind, the drama changed; sleepless nights and troubled dreams bid them adieu, the "blues" visited them no longer, and they met old age, not lame, and deaf and blind, but in the enjoyment of vigor physical and mental; and finally died as men *should* die, not racked with

"Cramps and
Stitches that pen up the breath,"

but breathed their last, without a pang, or "twinge or struggle" to make death so horrible.

Food is one of the requisites necessary to the concordant operations of the physical laws of our organizations. Indeed without it these operations would soon tragically end. Then *food* is not only one of the essential conditions of Health, but of Life. And the inquiry here presents itself, what is its real use, and what quality and quantity, should be partaken at a time, to contribute most to these desired ends? Now were the human body a piece of machinery constructed upon such a plan that there were neither friction, nor wasting and casting off of material consequent upon its operations, there would be no need—no necessity for what is termed food. But this is not the case. There is no machinery on earth possessing so *much* friction* in so small a compass, and, as it is a universal law of na-

*Perhaps we do not quite understand what Dr. C. would imply by the term friction, in this connection; [illegible] be that [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible]
—Eds. E. J. of M.

ture that friction tends to the waste and destruction of all bodies subject to its influence, it follows that the great amount of friction *in* the body rapidly produces wasting *of* the body. Here then we see the use of food, &c., it relieves the frictions and supplies the wastes: for were it not for this relief and this supply, this wonderful machinery which may be made to last "three score years and ten," would be ruined—destroyed—before

"the changing of a moon."

Hence the kind of food most conducive to health and long life, is that which *best* relieves these frictions, and most *promptly* supplies the consequent wastes. The *quality* is entirely dependent upon the *temperament*. The sluggish and dull, may require food somewhat *stimulating* in character, while the active and excitable should *avoid* all such. With this general idea of the necessities and uses of food—"the proper study of mankind being man," each one should carefully watch—should carefully note the effects of the food he eats, and be benefitted by his own *experience*,—should diligently work out the problem—that of the kind and quality most suitable for him—for HIMSELF.

Our race undoubtedly enjoyed better health, and attained a greater age in centuries back, than it does since the inventions of the Cook have become so prolific, and the products of the Still so numerous. There has been a great degeneracy from the simplicity of those ages. Instead of *learning*, and persevering in the use of such articles as best answer the important ends for which food was designed, men—and *women* too—love to *gratify* their tastes and appetites, and hence indulge in the continual use of articles which neither sufficiently relieve the frictions, nor supply their consequent waste. This course is followed, sooner or later, by disease in its varied forms, and premature old age and death.

A word in conclusion respecting *quantity*; and what more appropriate than the advice of the Poet,

"Observe
The rule of *not too much*—by temperance taught,
In what thou eat'st and drink'st, seeking from thence
Due nourishment, not gluttonous delight,
'Till many years over thy head return;
So may'st thou live 'till like ripe fruit thou drop
Into thy mother's lap, or be with ease
Gathered, not harshly pluck'd, in death mature."

Millville, Pa.

Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

A REPORT,—BY W. ELMER, M. D.

A RATIONAL SYSTEM OF MEDICINE can not be formed upon any basis except that of well-defined and scientific principles. Such a system will necessarily imply and demand a knowledge of the proper means for the successful treatment of disease, and the action and influence of medical agents on the human system. This knowledge we

must acquire through a correct Pathology, Chemistry and Therapeutics.

What has *Pharmaceutical Chemistry* to do towards affording this knowledge? Much indeed; for by it we are taught the art of choosing, preparing, combining, and preserving medical substances. Pharmacy, as now taught, is far from being perfect, or satisfactory to the student. Every one who has given to the subject any degree of attention, must be forced to acknowledge, that much of the matter contained in authorized works on this subject, exhibits so total a want of correct principles, and scientific arrangement of formulæ, as to be liable to the charge of quackery and empiricism. Many medical agents are given in combination, which, by chemical changes, originate or produce other compounds, possessing wholly opposite qualities from those of the components when taken singly; and thus the practitioner is disappointed and deceived in the results produced, and the patient necessarily suffers the consequences.

It would appear from an examination of many of the formulæ of the various Pharmacopeas, that their most prominent idea is, that the more ingredients, or the greater the variety of articles combined, the better; the pharmaceutist trusting that some one or more of the agents thus used, may have the desired effect in the cure of a given disease or class of diseases. The analysis of some of these compounds would exhibit a degree of ignorance, for which no apology can be found; and would surprise those who have extolled their virtues. In forming medical compounds, the character and action of their essential principles should always be kept in view; and no such combination should ever be given by the physician, until he has carefully diagnosed the pathological condition of the patient for whom he is called to prescribe. And who can judge better in reference to medical compounds than the practitioner? In general it will be the best and safest plan, to give the active or essential principles of a medicine uncombined with any other, as many medicines possess a combination of properties. It is hardly necessary to add, that intelligent physicians have learned that the ligneous portion of vegetable remedies is irritating to the stomach of the patient, and that all that is requisite or desirable in the employment of these agents is that principle on which their salutary action depends. Hence it is safe to say, that crude medicines should seldom or never be given.

Decoctions, Syrups, &c., are also unreliable preparations, because the volatile principle of many articles is carried off with the vapor during the boiling process, while the active principles of others, again, undergo a destructive decomposition.

EXTRACTS. These are generally held to be valuable preparations, but, to a great extent, the opinion is erroneous. The idea that extracts, as they are commonly made, contain all the valuable principles of the vegetable from which they are obtained, is not correct, notwithstanding they may have been prepared *in vacuo*. This is shown from the fact that the volatile parts, as in decoctions, are dissipated, and some of the essential principles are oxidised, and consequently the

vegetable substance is altered, and in many cases destroyed. Extracts prepared from vegetables *in vacuo*, are less changed in their properties than by the ordinary method, and hence are more valuable; yet the most important part of the whole process has, to a great extent, been overlooked.

The menstruum to be employed, is the first and most essential matter to be determined: it should be a solvent which does not, in any degree, change the nature of the substance to be dissolved;—those usually employed are alcohol, water and hydro-alcohol. In many cases these are neither proper nor sufficient. In every instance, the substance to be dissolved must be accurately analyzed before it can be determined what kind of solvent is required in order to obtain the active principle. In many cases a compound solvent is required,—in others different menstrua must be applied successively, to the same substance. To these rules there are but few exceptions. All vegetables contain various ingredients; and if it is desirable to obtain its valuable components unaltered, and in the form of an extract, then the foregoing method of employing solvents must be adopted as well as the *vacuo* principle. How many practitioners are there who, from their experience in the use of extracts, are prepared to say that these have met their expectations in the treatment of disease? The truth is, and we can not disguise it if we would, that in very many cases these preparations are not of a reliable character. They have, it is true, been highly recommended, but not, we apprehend, on account of their intrinsic worth, but because they are more conveniently employed than the crude articles, and because they do not contain woody fibre. Organic chemistry has taught us the important fact, that in many vegetable substances there reside *peculiar vegetable compounds*, admirably adapted to the cure of disease, and which are far better, more reliable, and more convenient, than extracts or medicines in any other form. I have already hinted, that the practitioner is the most competent to decide in reference to the combination of medical substances as adapted to each case occurring in his practice; but he will be at fault, unless his knowledge of chemistry is sufficient to enable him to make, or at least to judge of, such combinations upon scientific principles.

A knowledge of chemistry is indespensable to the proper and successful preparation of medicines. Pharmacy is imperfect without such knowledge. Hence we submit, that the term *Pharmaceutical Chemistry* should be adopted as being more expressive and appropriate than the term Pharmacy alone. Thus defined, it will embrace the art of obtaining the *active principles* from medical substances, and the preparation of medicines founded on their chemical action. It is also the province of chemistry, to point out healthy and nourishing aliment, to analyze the air we breathe, as well as, in part, to teach us the best method of preventing the occurrence of disease. There are many forms of disease, which require a chemical mode of treatment; hence the necessity of understanding this science, in order successfully to practice the healing art.

With these, and all the aids we have at hand, it would appear that the time has arrived, when there no longer exists any serious obstacle to the formation of a safe and rational system of medicine.— True Eclecticism approaches nearer to such a system than any other now extant; and including, as it must, enlightened *Hydropathy*, is destined to eclipse all other systems yet presented for the confidence and approval of mankind. The Water-treatment alone cannot succeed; although it has done, and is doing, much good. The physician who hopes to cure all, or even those forms of disease which are the most easily controlled with the use of other remedial agents, with water alone, will be doomed to disappointment.

Did time permit, I should be glad to avail myself of an opportunity to call your attention still further to the new CONCENTRATED MEDICINES, or vegeto-active *principles*. Most of the members of this convention have used them in their practice, and so far as I have been able to learn, are more than gratified with the result. They have been introduced into nearly every State in the Union; and the voluntary commendations which those powerful and salutary remedies have received, and are receiving, from physicians of all classes, warrants me in saying that their universal adoption is no longer a matter of doubt and uncertainty. The American Pharmaceutical Institute of New York city has already prepared about thirty varieties, and we are actively engaged in further researches and discoveries in this most interesting and useful department of medical science.

SELECTIONS.

Accidental Gastrotomy.—Opiates in Traumatic Injuries.

MRS. V., a large muscular woman, of about 40, at near the conclusion of the seventh month of pregnancy, was standing upon a platform in the act of shaking a rug, when the plank on which she stood slipped from under her, and she was let down upon a picket of a fence on which the platform rested. The picket penetrated the integuments and muscles of the abdomen just below the umbilicus, lacerating these tissues, including the peritoneum, from the point of entrance, in a transverse direction, on each side, to near the crest of the ileum, making a wound, I should think, of near twenty inches in length. The upper lid of the wound, being convex below, was folded up over the epigastric region. The contraction of the muscles below added to this circumstance, gave width to the wound, of some six or eight inches, which afforded a very accessible view of the abdominal viscera, the most prominent of which was the distended *gravid uterus*, containing a fœtus near maturity of extraordinary size, visibly *struggling with great violence* from the contusion, which must have been somewhat severe, and was at the central and most prominent part of the uterus.

This circumstance, added to the extent of the wound, presented a most formidable and extraordinary spectacle.

In a few minutes from the time of the event, the patient was narcotized by chloroform to insensibility. The wound was carefully adjusted, and secured by sutures and adhesive straps. Before the specific influence of the chloroform had passed off, a large dose of morphine was given, and repeated sufficiently often to prevent pain or clear conciousness, till time had elapsed for the adhesive or suppurative process to become sufficiently established, to secure the patient against inflammation or suffering, when the soporific influence was permitted partially to subside, but continued to a less extent. On the fourth or fifth day, the wound was found apparently firmly united by the first intention, through its whole length. There had been no indications of suffering, since the first impression of the narcotism; general nervous or vascular excitement scarcely perceptable; no hemorrage of importance from the wound, at the time of its occurrence; no artificial depletion, save a saline cathartic, or other sedatives than morphine.

About the sixth day, when the period for anxiety seemed to have passed by, and I was contemplating, with a good deal of satisfaction, the happy issue of the case, contrary to special direction (*to gratify a good appetite*) the patient took a pretty full meal of indigestible food, which occasioned considerable gastric and constitutional disturbance. The wound immediately assumed a less healthy appearance, became of a dark venous complexion, and the medium by which its middle portion was united, to the extent of one third of its length, was broken up. Some sloughing of its edges followed, which were afterwards restored by granulation; an event that, it would seem, might help to correct the erroneous, but popular impression, that the *alimentary canal* alone suffers from such violations, and perhaps may profitably enforce upon the minds of many of the profession, the fact that a *strict and judicious regimen* is not less important in surgery than in medicine. But for this provoking indiscretion, the constitution would scarcely have recognized this extensive injury.

In about two months from the time of the accident, and at the *full period of gestation*, Mrs. V. was delivered, by a natural, quick and easy labor, of a healthy child, weighing about ten pounds, evidently none the worse, in any respect, for the misfortune of its mother, or its own violent and untimely disturbance.

The particulars of this case, that have to me given it interest and importance, are, in the first place, so general a union, by the first intention, of so extensive a *lacerated* wound. Second, the almost entire absence of constitutional disturbance, from a wound of such tissue and magnitude, in a plethoric habit, and in a condition ordinarily *irritably* disposed. In the third place, it was expected that a lesion of this character and magnitude would have been productive of constitutional disturbance, incompatible with the continuance of gestation, and miscarriage would have been the result; an event that would probably have been fatal to the child, and increased materially the perils of the con-

dition of the mother. But both were made to sleep through their perils, till all tendency to irritation was passed, and gestation went on to maturity, without a threatening indication.

I am aware there is but little certainty in attempting to estimate the extent of the recuperative powers of the system, or predicting the issue of any organic lesion, when left to the unaided efforts of the restorative powers. In calculating the amount of benefit derived from artificial interference, in any given case, the occasional occurrence of spontaneous recoveries, from the most severe organic injuries, forces upon us the inference that the most favorable results are often to be ascribed more to the salutary efforts of the constitution, than to our best-directed exertions. But these are exceptions to a general rule. The sum total of our experience would leave no reasonable expectation of so favorable a result, as in the present case, from the unaided efforts of the constitution, or even from the most efficient antiphlogistic remedies; and I have been induced to notice the present case, from the fact, that it is one, of many, in which I have had occasion to make trial of the strong and uninterrupted soporific influence of opiates, in protecting the system from inflammation and other consequences of traumatic injuries. From an early period narcotics have been resorted to as a means of making severe organic lesions more tolerable, to a very limited and inefficient extent, but without a full conciousness of their aid to the conservative power, or to the extent to which they might safely and advantageously be carried; and in various combinations, opiates have more recently become the remedy of our great reliance in some of the most intractable and dangerous forms of inflammation, particularly of the *fibrous and serous tissues*. And although they have ceased to be looked upon as merely *palliative*, and are gaining upon the confidence of the profession, as *curative*, I have the impression that they have not attained the rank and confidence in this respect that they merit or are destined to attain. Frequent trials and observations have suggested, have forced upon me, the conviction, that in order to avail ourselves of the full benefit of this class of remedies, either as a means of defending the constitution from the consequences of injuries, or of controlling inflammation, we must insist (when not particularly contra-indicated) upon their most *intense* and *uninterrupted* influence.

If *irritation* is the precursor, or a condition necessarily preceding *inflammation*, it seems rational to conclude, that its prevention or control must prevent the accession of succeeding stages, while the cause of irritation is being removed by the process of secretion or adhesion. If the *inflammatory process* be continued by the reciprocal action of the nervous and vascular tissues, the latter being moved to morbid action through the agency of the former, all analogies would seem to sanction the propriety of directing our first and special attention to the former, while depletion, which has special reference to the vascular system, would be looked upon as an *important*, but as *the second* consideration.

Between the phenomena presented by the different functions, in *paralysis*, and those of subjects fully *narcotized* by either of the *anæs-*

thetic agents, there is a close, if not perfect analogy. In both, there is a suspension of the animal functions, and a visible depression of the organic. Both are incompatible with any high degree of vascular or inflammatory action. Both depend upon a partial suspension of the nervous influence; and both are illustrative of the full sedative effect of opiates; the effect of the latter being a more feeble impression of the same type, and furnishes us with efficient and legitimate means of controlling other functions, particularly of the vascular system, through the agency of the *nervous*, when dangerous consequences are to be apprehended from their inordinate action.

Yours respectfully, J. C. BRADBURY.

[*B. M. & S. Journal.*

Though we do not endorse the use of opiates as *curative* agents to the extent of Dr. Bradbury, and many others in the medical profession, yet to allay irritation and thus *prevent* inflammation they are often of undoubted utility. To allay or mitigate irritation and pain is an important indication in the treatment of disease. The above is one of numerous cases in which it is highly important to relieve, as far as possible, all nervous and vascular excitement, and we think this can be accomplished, many times, in no other way as effectually as by this class of remedies. Without stopping to discuss the merits of opium or other narcotics, we merely offer the inquiry, can Hydropathic, Physo-Pathic or other anti-drug or anti-opium practitioners, tell us of any other way of treating the above accident as safely and efficiently as that pursued by Dr. Bradbury? L. C. P.

Leptandrin.

THE RESINOUS PRINCIPLE OF LEPTANDRA VIRGINICA.

Preparation.—Similar to that of Aletrin, and the other resinoids, requiring, however, much care in its preparation, as an excess of heat readily spoils it. Leptandrin, according to its mode of preparation, is a jet black substance, resembling pure asphaltum, or of a grayish brown color, with a peculiar, faint cyanic smell and taste, somewhat bitter, but not disagreeable; it is readily soluble in alcohol. This valuable agent was first prepared and introduced to the profession by W. S. Merrell of Cincinnati.

Properties and Uses.—Cholagogue, antiperiodic, and aperient. It is one of the most efficacious and important agents among those peculiar to Eclectic practice, being the only known medicine that efficiently stimulates and corrects the hepatic secretions, and functional derangements of the liver, without debilitating the system by copious alvine evacuations. It may be safely and efficaciously employed in the treatment of diarrhœa, cholera-infantum, some forms of dyspepsia, typhoid fever, and all diseases connected with biliary derange-

ments. Combined with podophyllin it is a prompt and effectual remedy in epidemic dysentery, often effecting a permanent cure in from twelve to eighteen hours; in intermittents, its union with quinine renders the effect more certain, and prevents the liability to a return of the disease, at least for the season, and is likewise highly beneficial in infantile remittent fever, and in periodic diseases generally, of an obstinate character, in which quinine alone seems to produce but little or no result. It may also be used in many other combinations with much advantage, as with Hydrastin, or dried beef's gall, in some dyspeptic affections, jaundice, piles, &c., or with Iridin, Macrotin, Baptisin, Phytolaccin, Corydalin, Caulophyllin, and other active principles, in various forms of disease. Dose of Leptandrin, from one-half of a grain to five or six grains, every three or four hours, according to the action or effect desired. An Eclectic Professor remarks on this valuable article:

"This is not strictly speaking a cathartic. It is aperient, alterative, and tonic. Its effects on the liver are peculiar. In cases of children afflicted with summer complaint, where there is evidently a lack of the proper biliary secretion, but where, owing to the already irritated condition of the bowels, the ordinary medicines for arousing the liver are inadmissible, this article seems to be the very thing needed.—While it acts freely upon the liver, instead of purging, it seems only to change the discharges from the light and watery or slimy condition, to a darker and apparently bilious state, but renders them more and more consistent, until they become perfectly natural, without having been arrested entirely, or at any time aggravated. It at the same time seems to act as a tonic, restoring the tone of the stomach and increasing the strength and activity of digestion. It is a most valuable remedy in dyspepsia.

"The dose is from one-fourth to one grain every one or two hours in accute cases, and from one to two grains three times a day in chronic cases. It is valuable to combine with Polophyllin as a remedy in dispepsia and chronic hepatitis.

"In the epidemic dysentery, which has prevailed for the past two seasons, in many parts of our country, this article has been of great service. It was usually given with the best success after evacuating the bowels freely, with a combination of Polophyllin and Leptandrin or Rhubarb. For this purpose, give from one-half to one grain every hour, gradually lengthening the intervals as the discharges become darker. Though it may not be applicable in all cases of dysentery, it is doubtless one of the most useful articles in this dangerous disease."

Off. Prep.—Pilulæ Baptisiæ Compositæ, Pilulæ Leptandrini Compositæ; Pulvis Leptandrini Compositus.—*Eclc. Dispensatory, U. S.*

CONSUMPTION.—The statistics prepared by the American Medical Association, represent that in the city of Boston, during the three years from 1846 to 1849, there were [illegible] deaths from consumption alone, while in the same period the deaths from typhus fever were only [illegible], and those from dysentery only [illegible]. In the five years from

1844 to 1849, there were in Massachusets 18,004 deaths from diseases of the respiratory system—20 per cent. of the whole mortality. In Lowell, in every 10,000 deaths, 2,500 are from lung diseases.

According to the lately published registration of mortality in Massachusetts, there were, in 1849, 4,634 deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs; a greater number, by thousands, than were caused by the diseases of any other set of organs. It will be seen from statistics like these that consumption is very properly called the "Scourge of New England." Cholera, small pox, and all other epidemic and infectious diseases combined, have never been, and will probably never be, such causes of death as this one disease of consumption.

It is evident to any thinking man that these terrible results flow from fatal mistakes in living. New England has no fatal miasma, comparatively no squallid poverty, and necessarily, no unhealthy food. Her territory is covered with comfortable dwellings, her hills rejoice under the purest air, vegetables and animals come to a healthy maturity for the food of man, and the materials of clothing are abundant. Where lies the secret of the destroyer? In our opinion, the answer to this question lies in skins debilitated in suffocating stove heat, to such an extent as to make them susceptible to the influence of every otherwise healthful breeze, and to every change in the atmosphere.

There is no adaptation of clothing to temperature, and there is, in every country town, a system of living in reeking kitchens, stifling with their heat and steam, that is adapted, exactly, to the production of pulmonary diseases.—*Exchange Paper.*

Obstetrical Auscultation.

BY M. M. ROGERS, M. D., OF ROCHESTER, N. Y.

I trust I may be pardoned for the few suggestions I may make on the important subject of obstetrical ausculation. This branch of obstetrics, though by no means new, is still very little studied, and seldom called in requisition in practice. This is more especially the case with practitioners remote from large towns, where the spirit of medical investigation almost necessarily languishes for want of certain facilities to sharpen and stimulate it, which are afforded in cities. Among these means are hospitals, medical schools, meetings of medical societies, easy access to new publications, and new instruments, opportunities of dissections, and the frequent contact of the profession in consultation, &c.

But fortunately, the branch of science in question, can be studied as well in the country as in the cities; practitioners in the country have more obstetrical practice in proportion, than those in the cities. Obstetrical auscultation is, however, so far as I have observed, neglected to a very great extent, both in town and country. I believe comparatively few of the profession *habitually* call to their aid this means of diagnosis in cases of suspected pregnancy. There are several reasons why this is true:

1. Because treaties on this subject are hardly to be had in this country, except such brief ones as are found in the works on obstet-

rics. 2. Our knowledge of it is not sufficiently thorough and practical, to cause us to give it the importance due, as a means of diagnosis. 3. Delicacy on the part of physicians as well as patients, in practicing this mode, which nevertheless, is far less repulsive, more delicate and certain in results, than the "*toucher*."

This method, which is the only one by which a safe and certain diagnosis of pregnancy can be made, is usually the last proposed by the physician, and is considered by most women, to be some "new experiment," to which they submit with distrust and reluctance. This ought not to be; the women and all other patients should be taught what is required of them, and be induced to submit to such reasonable and necessary course as an intelligent physician may propose. But the time to dispense with obstetrical auscultation, or to doubt its utility in diagnosis, and prognosis also, is past;—and those who neglect to avail themselves of its advantages, must be content with second rate success and reputation in this branch. That this is the only means by which we can obtain *positive* evidence of pregnancy, needs no proof.

The facts which may be thus established are briefly:—1. After the fourth or fifth month, whether a fœtus exists in the uterus or not. 2. Whether there are more than one. 3. Whether the fœtus is living. 4. In many cases whether it is in a state of disease or health. 5. What the presentation will be, before labor commences. 6. Whether there will be a large or small amount of amniotic fluid. 7. After the fifteenth or sixteenth week, whether there be a placentia or mole if no fœtus. These are points on which auscultation gives positive evidence: the absence of the fœtal "*tic tac*" and "*soufflet*" or "*bruit placentaire*, are only negative proof of the contrary of these propositions. The fœtal "tic tac" can be confounded with no other sound; the "bruit placentiare," only with anurismal varix.

Any mode of diagnosis which enables us to establish so many important facts, cannot be unworthy careful investigation.

I believe I hazard nothing in saying, that any man of ordinary acuteness, can acquire a *fair* knowledge of this branch of our profession, by fifty hours study, and ten days practice on the living subject.

In a medico-legal point of view, this knowledge is of vast importance. But I will defer further remarks for another number of this Journal. [Buffalo Medical Journal.

The Fibrinous Element of the Blood in relation to disease.

BY B. W. RICHARDSON.

The author, after a few brief preparatory remarks, proceeded to observe, that although it was not his intention to discuss those points which pertain purely to the physiology of fibrine, yet that he should not fail to make use of those physiological facts which bear directly upon the pathology of this element, whenever he found that the re-

cital of such facts would assist in elucidating obscure parts of this subject. He then assumed the presence of fibrine in healthy blood, and took for the standard of its amount the figure derived from the mean analysis of Laennec,—viz., three parts in the 1000—as being at once the most simple and correct estimate. During health, fibrine is held in solution by the serum, and perhaps by the salts of the blood, and in its course through the body is associated with a pretty constant quantity of albumen. It is also particularly worthy of remark, that even in health it is always undergoing slight changes in quantity: sometimes a real change, by virtue of an increase or decrease in itself; and at other times a relative change only, arising from corresponding alterations in the other constituents of the blood. The fibrinous element of the blood during disease may undergo distinct changes in quantity and in quality: 1. It may be increased. 2. It may be decreased. 3. It may be altered in character.

Increase of Fibrine never occurs without being attended with a diminution of some other constituent of the blood. Thus, Simon shows that in inflammations the increase of fibrine is accompanied with decrease of blood-corpuscle, and so on. This is a very important fact, inasmuch as it shows how dependent each element of the blood is on the other, and how careful analytical observers ought to be, before they conclude that a separate constituent of the blood is either increased or decreased in quantity. But admitting the full force of this remark, it must be allowed that the fibrinous element is capable of undergoing increase, and it becomes interesting therefore to inquire—What are the circumstances which lead to such increase? It is now fully demonstrated that the respiratory act is intimately concerned in the formation of fibrine, and that the proportion of this element in the body is increased or decreased in proportion with the amount of oxygen imbibed in the respiratory act. Thus the beautiful series of experiments lately performed by Dr. Gairdner, prove that the blood of animals which have been exposed to an oxygenized atmosphere soon becomes highly charged with fibrine; and the experiments of Prevost and Dumas, and the more recent ones of Nasse and Poggiale, show, that in those animals whose respiration is most active, such as birds, the amount of fibrine is greater than in other creatures; while, on the contrary, the observations of Dr. John Davy prove that in all cases where death is induced by any process which deprives the lungs of atmospheric air, the blood remains destitute of the property of coagulation, either from deficiency of fibrine, or alteration in its quality. From this fact, then, it is by no means difficult to discover how it is that in some diseases fibrine shall be in excess. We may not be able to prove that a highly oxygenized atmosphere ever produces such a state, but we can prove the existence of a condition in which the respiratory acts, and circulation through the lungs, are so abnormally increased, as to cause a greater exposure of the blood to the atmosphere than is consistent with health; under which circumstances, rest, sufficient to prevent an equivalent waste of fibrine, is only required, to ensure an increase of this element in the

blood. And this, indeed, is just what occurs in practice. In no diseases is the fibrinous element so increased as in pulmonary inflammations. Bronchitis, moreover, affords positive and negative evidence of the fact in question, since, in the first stages of his disease, when a large quantity of blood is exposed too frequently to atmospheric influences, the fibrine is greatly increased; while, in the later stages, when a mucous secretion is poured out upon the bronchial membrane, thus cutting off the directness of communication betwixt the blood and the atmosphere, the fibrine falls to its natural standard, or even below it. This mode of reasoning, however, only accounts for the extraordinary increase of fibrine in pulmonary diseases; it does not account for the ordinary increase of fibrine found in all inflammations. With reference to the question—What is the true cause of increase of fibrine, and of the accompanying fever?—the author, after explaining the inaccuracy of the hypothesis on this subject by Dr. F. Simon, remarked, that to him it appeared that the inflammation gave rise to the increase of fibrine, and this to the accompanying excitement which we call fever; and he related, in corroboration of this view, that in some experiments on rabbits, recently conducted by himself, he had not only found fibrine increase after respiration of oxygen, but had observed, also, that in proportion with this increase, there came on quickened circulation, arterial tonicity, great heat of skin, and other of those symptoms which would indicate inflammatory fever in the human subject. It might, however, be supposed, that in some cases the increase of fibrine was owing to the same cause as the inflammation itself. Thus, erysipelas was a disease arising purely from atmospheric causes, and in this disease there was an increase of the fibrinous element. The analogy might be carried out, more or less, to other inflammations. In some diseases, the increased amount of fibrine may be relative only, owing to a diminution in the other blood constituents. Thus, the increase in phthisic, where the skin and bowels often act so freely, may arise from this cause; and so also in Bright's disease of the kidney, where large quantities of albumen pass off with the secretion from the kidneys. The question, whether venesection causes increase of fibrine, is not yet fairly settled; but the inference is strong that it does do so, but only in a slight degree, and by no means in proportion with the great increase of water, which follows the same cause. Scurvy would seem to hold an anomalous position in this matter, inasmuch as it is induced by the very causes which, according to modern experiment, lead to a decrease of fibrine; and yet in the experiments of Buck on scorbutic blood, it was found buffed, and rich in the fibrinous element. Was it possible that the patients on whose blood these experiments were performed, were suffering at the time from slight inflammation, which gave rise to a temporary increase of fibrine, as sometimes happens in typhus fever?

Decrease of Fibrine.—The causes which lead to decrease of fibrine are those which arrest the process of fibrination, or overwhelm the blood with its other constituents,—such as removal of the pure atmosphere from the lungs, absence of nutritious food, suppressed perspi-

ration, and suppression of the other secretions. Hence this decrease is common to typhus and continued fevers, purpura hæmorrhagica, and the like. Excessive fatigue also leads to the same results, and fibrine is therefore found deficient in over-driven animals. This fact strongly supports the view, that fibrine is powerfully influenced by the respiratory process. In these cases, the muscles are for a long time worked, and the demand for fibrine is therefore very great. At the same time, the respiration gets impaired from the exercise; the blood consequently is not fibrinized in proportion with the amount of fibrine implied; hence such blood is found deficient in fibrine. From seventy reports of cases of death by ardent spirits, in which the blood was observed by three American physicians, Drs. Peters, Goldsmith, and Moses, it would seem that alcoholic drinks lessened the fibrinous element. Mr. Richardson here took occasion to criticise the present habit of calling that excitement of the system which follows an inflammation, and that state of prostration which arises from polluted air or from contagion, by the one name, fever. He contended that these states were different, both pathologically and symptomologically, and that a strict regard for scientific truth demanded a distinction to be made. He also criticised the custom of giving saline medicines (especially nitrate of potash) and alcoholic and profuse watery drinks, in true typhus fever, arguing that these substances tended to lessen the consistency of the plastic element, which was already deficient in consistency.—*London Lancet.*

Remarkable Case of Foreign Bodies in the Stomach and Duodenum, complete Obstruction of the Bowels, and Mechanical Displacements of Organs.

BY JOHN MARSHALL, ESQ.

A trademan's wife, aged forty-one at the time of her death, who had borne six children—the last in 1844—a tall, well-formed woman, had suffered from the following symptoms:—In December, 1842, fourteen days after the birth of her fifth child, she vomited a wash-hand-basinful of blood. For forty-eight hours subsequently she was unconscious, the pupils were dilated, and the pulse hardly to be felt. She recovered slowly, and her complexion always retained a sallow hue afterwards. The last labor, in 1844, was unattended by any similar or other ailment, and she recovered quickly. In the autumn of 1845, she suffered from pain at the epigastrium and in the left groin, accompanied with frequent vomiting. A hard tumour, size and shape of an ordinary placenta, was found in the left groin, movable in a transverse direction when the patient turned from side to side. This had been felt by the patient for many months; when it moved, it caused nausea, but no pain, nor was it tender to the touch. She had pain between the shoulders, shooting into the left breast, and suffered much from flatulence. The catamenia had not appeared for three months, and she thought she was pregnant. The bowels were constipated, the vomiting continued, with occasional mixture of blood in

the matters thrown up; she became much emaciated, and so feeble that her death was expected. She recovered, however, after taking nothing but small quantities of brandy at short intervals for two days. She gradually regained strength, and looked almost as well as usual. During the five following years, she continued in tolerable health; the pain and occasional sickness, constipated state of bowels and occasional œdema of face and ankles, were the principal indications of impaired health. The catamenia had never returned since 1845. In October, 1850, after a return of the old symptoms of incessant vomiting, &c., she sank after an illness of three weeks.

Post-mortem examination, eighteen hours after death.—The stomach was found reaching, at its pyloric end, the arch of the pubes, its form resembling that of a champagne-bottle; the duodenum lay partly under the sigmoid flexure of the colon; the pencreas was also drawn out of its natural position; the liver was large and pale, and the gall-bladder full of bile. Nothing remarkable was observed in the other organs of the abdomen and pelvis, except that the cæcum and colon were small, and had lost the character of large intestines. No ulceration was to be found throughout the whole length of the intestinal canal, or any adhesion or other sign of peritonæal inflammation. The stomach contained in its lower half nine ounces of pins of of a purple-black color, not corroded, all bent or broken, many very pointed. The contents of the stomach were much thickened; the duodenum contained a mass of pins very tightly packed, of various shapes, similar to those found in the stomach, and wholly obstructing the tube. Their weight was about a pound. The husband of the patient had never seen her put pins into her mouth, but her son said that he had observed his mother biting pins, and believed that she swallowed them; and stated, moreover, that he had occasionally taunted her with the fact when she corrected him. It appeared that her appetite was always capricious, occasionally very keen; and her sister informed the author that when a child she was in the habit of eating starch and slate-pencil, and that she had seen her biting pins. At seventeen years of age, she had vomited blood, and was ill for some time afterwards.—*London Lancet.*

On the Employment of Sulphate of Zinc as an Antiseptic.—M. Falcony states, as the result of his experimental researches, that sulphate of zinc is not only eminently antiseptic, preserving animal substances from decay, but that it actually arrests the progress of putrefaction which has once commenced. The injection of four or five quarts of the solution of this salt in water, through the arteries, suffices for the preservation of a human body, in a state of perfect flexibility for upwards of forty days. Anatomical preparations thus made, will serve for dissection for a considerable period; the use of the solution not affecting the steel instruments employed. M. Falcony has also found, that preparations which have undergone change by maceration, resume their original character when immersed in a solution of sulphate of zinc.—*London Med. Times.*

A Remedy for Neuralgia.

BY ARIEL HUNTON, M. D.

I herewith send you a Recipe for the relief of that painful disease, Neuralgia, also known by numerous uncouth names which I shall not attempt to write.

I have been very successful in alleviating the most excruciating pain with Camphorated Tincture of Iodine and extract of Stramonium. The extract is of my own preparation, and I know that it is pure; a pill half the size of a plump kernel of wheat is a dose for an adult. To two ounces of alcohol, add ten grains of crude Iodine, gum Camphor and Capsicum; with this bathe the part affected till some degree of warmth is perceived.

This disease usually attacks the patient in paroxysms, once or twice in 24 hours, and about the same time in the day. Half an hour before the expected attack, give one of the pills, and wet the affected part with the Tincture; when the pain first shows its return wet the part once or twice more, or until some warmth is produced, when relief will usually follow. In the interval of the paroxysm the pill may be administered every sixth hour, and the Iodine applied occasionally.

It frequently happens that an emetic or cathartic should form part of the treatment. [*Nelson's Northern Lancet.*

The Study of Medicine not unfavorable to a Religious Character.—At Buffalo, N. Y., the medical class of the University, for some reason unknown to us—doubtless a good one—requested the Rev. Dr. Thompson, of that city, to preach to them. He complied, and his discourse, now printed, is calculated to enlarge the sphere of the author's reputation. He has taken the true ground, that physicians are not made infidels by studying the beautiful mechanism of the human body. They are accused of indifference towards the cultivation of a religious character; but that is equally untrue. Their pursuits, and the training of their minds, lead to constant and we trust profound contemplation of the works of God. If they have less to say, and figure in a more quiet manner in religious assemblies and local organizations, than others, it is not because they have less at heart the progress of Christianity, and the stability of those institutions which are based upon its abiding principles; but on account of their peculiar vocation, which debars them from the privilege of engaging as zealously as others do in that respect. It is not necessary to multiply words to vindicate the medical profession from the aspersions ungenerously cast upon it in regard to religious negligence or unbelief, in consequence of the occasional appearance of infidelity in its ranks. Dr. Thompson has spoken seasonably, and in a manner that calls upon ourselves, if no one else, to thank him for the good service he has accomplished in vindicating the reputation of a much traduced profession. [B. M. and S. Journal.

EDITORIAL.

Physical Science of the Human Body.

FOR NON-MEDICAL READERS.—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 124.

For compactness of expression, the title of these articles has been changed, as will be seen, including under the general head of Physical, i. e., *Natural* Science, the two closely related sciences of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy. The articles will be the same as were contemplated under the original heading. They will have for their objects:

1st. *To show how large a part the simple natural laws which are forever operating on* DEAD *matter around us, play in producing the complex processes of* LIVING *bodies.*

2d. To point out some of these mechanical, chemical, and other operations, and show their use, and how they are accomplished.

3d. To do this with the hope of correcting to some extent in the minds of many persons, the unfortunate but prevailing notion that HUMAN BODIES are things altogether beyond the reach of simple natural laws,—that they are indeed wholly *non*-natural, or even *un*natural; and hence, that their health and well-being must be attained by some altogether preternatural, and perhaps almost incomprehensible, *vital science*, which is to be fabricated apart from all our knowledge of the nature and actions of inanimate matter.

To call such notions *absurd*, is to show extreme politeness and forbearance towards the "old enemy" of human health and happiness—Error. Sagacity, once fairly put in exercise, suggests harsher terms with which to characterize man's blindness to the quality of his own composition; but it may not be worth while to use them, until people have had time and opportunity to take *a peep through the microscope* at the mechanism of their outer selves, and if then, through indolence, apathy, fear, or pride, they refuse to look, and study the curious machinery, they may surely be held inexcusable.

The Creator has nicely inwrought every part of nature into every other. There are no *Harmonia sutures** in the skeleton of the uni-

*Simple apposition of parts, without such inter-union as is found in most of the bones of the skull.

verse. Every plank in the platform of Being, is *dove-tailed* into its fellows at either side. What an anomaly, then, would man be, walking in the midst of nature, surrounded by an endless net-work of *natural laws*, and yet not penetrated by them! How unfit a denizen for a world of matter and force,—how awkward, and impracticable a *stranger*, in a sphere where everything else, even to Fire and Lightning, Arsenic and Cabbage, was "*at home*," if he stood up, an isolated, foreign, non-natural existence, while rank Nature occupied every inch, and vivified with her busy forces every lump of matter, but him!

But we can admit no such doctrine. Man is penetrated by all natural laws; in fact, within his physical apparatus we find the sum, concentration, and consummation too, of their highest and proudest activity. Gravitation and cohesion, light and heat, affinity and electricity, mechanical, and magnetic force, incessantly concentre in, and radiate from, material man. Inertia, repulsion, friction, crystalization, combustion, endosmosis, (physical absorption,) and exosmosis, (physical exudation,) are manifested in MAN in precisely the same way as in all other bodies, and with a view to the attainment of precisely the same results.

For example; Lime crystalizes down in our bones, and probably a crystalized body has greater hardness and tenacity than an uncrystalized solid containing the same materials; a coal-fire is ever burning brightly in our blood, if we be healthy; and partly, at least, the office of the heat it produces is merely to keep our fluids in their proper state, to expand our solids, and keep the body plump and open for the currents within, to help in dissolving our food, and in expelling dead materials, and so on.

Surely, then, no one will question but that there is a Chemistry and a Natural Philosophy of living bodies. And no one will hesitate, after such an admission, to acknowledge that the operation of the principles of these sciences *in man*, must form a vastly more important and interesting theme for study and reflection, than their workings in inanimate nature, in the same ratio as the circumstances of MAN and LIFE are of immeasurably greater consequence than all the supposable states of all the *lifeless stuff* in the universe!

Let us now proceed to consider some of the elements of living vegetable and animal bodies.

1. CARBON.—When wood is heated to a very high heat, the free access of air being at the same time prevented, as is done in a coal-pit, or in the use of a covered crucible, the gaseous constituents of the wood are driven off, and a black solid—*charcoal*—remains. This

is nearly pure *carbon;* containg only a small mixture of earthy and alkaline materials. The symbol adopted to represent this substance is C.

If a piece of animal muscle, membrane, cartilage, or fat be heated sufficiently in a covered crucible, the combined gases will again be driven off, as in the case of the wood, and a black solid will remain. This is *animal charcoal*, and is, as before, nearly pure carbon. If air were freely admitted, in either case, the carbon, instead of being separated by desertion of the other elements, would be burned up, and being converted into a new gas, would take to flight with the rest. Nothing would stay behind in this case but the *ashes*, as in the burning of wood or coal in our fire-places. These are the earthy and alkaline ingredients of the wood or flesh, and not being so *fugacious* as their associates, they are left as the slain and wounded on the field of —combustion.

Carbon is very abundant in nature. It is found nearly pure in *charcoal*, *pit-coal*, and *plumbago*, and purest of all in the *diamond*.— It is also abundant in a state of combination with other elements; being an important ingredient in limestone, marble, and many other varieties of rock; in most inflammable gases; in sugar, starch, fat, blood, and flesh; and indeed in almost every known animal and vegetable substance.

Calculation.—Carbon composes from 40 to 50 per cent. of these last substances, when in a dried state. Let us, now, suppose *six sevenths* of the living human body to be water; and this is a fair average of the suppositions of writers on Physiology. A body weighing 140 lbs. at death, would, therefore, dry down to *one seventh* of its former weight, or 20 lbs., by mere evaporation of the water it contained. Let us suppose the dried bones in such a skeleton would weigh 10 lbs. About *one-third* of this weight is cartilage, fat, and other animal matter, and so contains its full proportion of Carbon. So also, of course, does the Carbonate of Lime, which forms a little less than *one-tenth* of the entire weight of the bony framework. This leaves about 58 per cent. of the entire mass, (mostly Phosphate of Lime,) which contains none of the element under consideration. This percentage deducted, leaves 4.2 lbs. of matters of bone which have Carbon in them, or 14.2 lbs. of the entire body. Taking 45 per cent. as the average proportion by weight of Carbon in all the animal compounds, we have 14.2 x .45 = 6.39 lbs, or nearly *one-third* of the entire mass of a dried human bodyof 140 lbs. original weight, consisting of this well-known element!

But the facts pertaining to the *physiological uses* of this substance, are still more strange and interesting.

In view of what has been said, we see that every tree is a reservoir of coal; in fact, a miniature coal-mine projecting upward into the atmosphere; coal living, growing, endowed with new and strange powers.

So, too, every animal and *every man* carries about coal-beds within his own body; in one sense, his blood, and his very brain, are coal-beds; and it is by the incessant blazing of the "vital flame" to which this coal is the fuel, that heat is evolved within the body, motion and thought made possible, and life prolonged! We have been accustomed to contemplate *coal*, in combustion, as furnishing the motive power to the machinery of our mills and manufactories, propelling the "iron horse" and the steam ship. But by considering the chemistry of man, we learn that the play of the wonderful machinery of his organism is produced in great part at least, by the employment of the same propelling force, obtained in precisely the same manner. Thus coal pushes the arm that wields the spade or brandishes the dagger, warms the heart that throbs to the impulses of sympathy or affection, speeds the mantling blush to the cheek, and secures in the brain the conditions needful to the manifestation of rage or love, thought or adoration.

I mean that it aids most materially in producing the *physical results* in all these cases,—the phenomena that we see, hear, and feel. But there are those who go farther, and say that the coal, or some such material of our bodies is the highest agent concerned in our mental and spiritual activity,—that *matter does our feeling, willing and thinking for us.* The premises I have laid down afford no warrant for such a conclusion. It is, independent of all other considerations, just as rational to conclude that the agency of heat is confined to the business of keeping in condition, and making tenantable, the physical habitation of the SOUL,—and more rational when we take into the account the convictions of a higher spiritual being entertained almost universally by the human race.

I would not again have referred to this view of the subject in hand, did I not know that grave charges have been brought, and grave fears entertained, of atheistical, or at least *irreligious tendencies* in the teachings of the physical science of human bodies. All such notions are peculiarly unfortunate, as they necessarily retard the spread of knowledge, with its inestimable advantages. But in this case, as in a thousand others, they prove groundless. And if, in any degree, I have been able to show that the most minute and impartial analysis of human bodies and their laws, need not in the least conflict with our moral views and relations, I apprehend I shall have done good service to Science and Humanity.

In conclusion, the Carbon in our bodies, as may be supposed, is by no means stationary. While it is constantly being consumed, fresh supplies are as constantly introduced in our *food*. No one can fail to see, therefore, that as the consumption of this fuel must vary with every change of external temperature, of the state of the air, of the labor performed, and the healthfulness of the entire system, it must be a matter of the highest moment, as well as of extreme delicacy, rightly to select and measure our food, so as under all circumstances to take as near as may be the proper quantity of carbonaceous material, and in the proper form, in order to secure the highest possible *health, physical comfort, force, and efficiency.* But, of this, more anon.

The subject of the Natural Science of Man is almost an endless one; and between blind brevity, and tiresome prolixity, I can hardly hope to steer with good success. I fear that through wariness of Scylla, I am already in Charybdis; but if so, and I succeed in extricating myself, I will do the best I may hereafter, for the Reader's edification, and the satisfaction of the conscience that bids me write, for popular eyes, the truths of physical science. R.

Bloodletting and Tartar Emetic in Inflammation of the Lungs.

In a late No. of the Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal, we find the following statement, together with certain comments, which it may be interesting, as well as useful to notice.

"An Austrian physician, (Dr. Dietl,) has published the results of different methods of treating pneumonia, and it appears that he was quite liberal in his views, and at times adopted widely different methods of treatment, varying from bloodletting to homœopathic *nothingness*. Dr. Dietl gives the following results: Of 85 cases treated by bleeding, 17 (or 1 in 5) died; of 106 treated by tartar emetic, (without bleeding) 22 (or 1 in 4. 8) died; of 189 treated by a purely *expectant* method, 14 (or 1 in 13. 5) died. The mortality under the homœopathic treatment was exactly the same as under the *expectant* method."

The editor of the Buff. Journal, together with his brother of the "Western Lancet," complain that these statements are indefinite, and ask, "were the patients old or young,—ill or well fed,—confined to a vitiated, or pure atmosphere; and finally, was the disease sthenic or asthenic?" Without doubt such particulars should always be stated, and they would aid materially in estimating the value of any statistics,—but in the case before us, we do not see that the deficiency

weighs—or should weigh very heavily against the statements. It is not to be supposed that a man would publish statistics of 400 or 500 cases of the very aged, or the half-starved, or half-suffocated, without mentioning the character of his patients; and we are under the necessity of supposing that he meant to have it understood, that he took the cases as they came to him, with their usual averages of each class. There is, then, but one of the above questions of really much import,—and that is whether the cases were sthenic or asthenic, the bearing of which will be seen farther on.

We would not be understood, however, as urging any thing against accuracy in statistics; on the contrary, we believe that every particular, of age, constitution, habits, degree of violence, extent of disease. &c., together with every external circumstance which could affect the cases, should be *carefully noted*,—and this not simply because it is going to prove or disprove,—build up or tear down, but because the well being of the human family demands it at the hands of investigating men. Traditional authority neither can nor should be longer blindly and quietly followed.

But, says Dr. Flint, in one or two points of view the "statistics possess considerable value;" and first the ratio of recoveries under the expectant method exceeded. by more than double that under the treatment by bloodletting, and was trebly greater than that under the treatment by tartar emetic." Considerable value, *we* think, and they contain facts which materially help to build up and substantiate the doctrines that reformers in medicine have been urging upon the attention of community for years,—that venesection was not only useless, but absolutely worse than useless, and the time is not far distant when it will be fully acknowledged so by all, as it now tacitly is by the Buffalo editor. "Considered" say he, "in connection with the results in the cases treated, by bleeding, and tartar emetic, it is fair to infer that it is VASTLY BETTER to withhold these remedies entirely in the treatment of this disease than to resort to them indiscriminately." Again, "a bleeding in pneumonitis may be necessary to the safety of one patient, while it *takes away all chance of recovery in another.*"

Now, kind reader, let us look at these doctrines, together with the facts which should accompany them. What are the cases in which it is pretended that bloodletting is not so advisable or useful? None but those of a decidedly typhoid character;—and those seldom, if ever, occurring, excepting in connection with some epidemic,—and probably averaging no more than one in four or five hundred of all the cases treated. Aside from these typhoid cases which are so rare,

it is the universal rule to bleed in pneumonia, and repeat 3 or 4 or more times in each case,—not even regarding the condition of the pulse, which is so deceptive. But the Buffalo editor suddenly loses confidence in the lancet and the antimony, and says "it is vastly better to withhold these remedies entirely" in the whole five hundred cases, for the sake of saving the one typhoid case, than to employ "them indiscriminately," for the sake of saving the 499, whom, it is pretended by all our best old school authority, it is absolutely necessary to bleed.

Wonderful faith this, in the lancet and blood! No wonder that he is led to the "important practical conclusion," that a very large proportion of cases of this disease do well without active medical interference. We are perfectly willing to give him his blow at homœopathy, "that infinitisimal loses and *nothing* are exactly synonymous," —and particularly when the same statistics show that *either* is 2½ or 3 times better than his own favorite mode of treating this disease by antimony and venesection.

We have a word to say further in regard to the statistics given us by Dr. Dietl. Let his cases have been what they would, his expectant method shows—as does his homœopathic, a far greater ratio of cures than has ever been claimed under the bleeding, antimonial and mercurial regimen, and it ill becomes such practitioners to turn and say it knocks homœopathy over, when it at the same time knocks them over so much more effectually.

In the best statistics yet published of the treatment of pneumonia by bloodletting, no fewer than 1 in every 10 have died,—with the exception of Grisolle's 13 mild cases which recovered. Generally, an average of one fatal case in 6 or 7, is looked upon as very successful treatment. (I would refer to Jackson's, Louis', and Grisolle's statistics.) Thus it will be seen that Dr. Dietl's loss of only 1-14 of his cases speaks volumes against the treatment ordinarily pursued, not only as being of no service, but as being several times worse than nothing,—in other words it *kills* instead of cures. There must be more experiments and accurate statistics,—there must be other measures and other systems tried,—and there must, and will be, a change in the treatment of this and other diseases ere many more years of quiet shall have been allowed those who have the care of human health entrusted to them.

We can but commend the tone and spirit of the article by the Buffalo editor, though coming to so different conclusions. His closing remarks in regard to "heroic treatment" and routine practice, are worth the attention of every physician, and we can say with a full

heart, with him, in regard to these heroes and routinists, "thanks to the progress of science [*and sturdy opposition*] this class is yearly becoming less and less." Thanks to the good people, too, who are so constantly demanding something better. P. C. D.

Report of College Clinique—No. 3.

Mrs. S., aged 47, stated that there had been hard lumps in her breasts for three years, which had never been inflamed or painful till within a comparatively short time; the right breast has been the worst, and blood has sometimes run from the nipple. The swolling and induration had gradually increased, till within a year, since which it has changed in character, and diminished in size. Breasts were examined, and the whole of each gland was found in a scirrhus condition—adherent to the ribs beneath, and to the skin above, and immovable. The scirrhous deposite extended from one breast to the other, and down the sternum, as well as to the axilla of each arm. When the tumors became adherent, and began to contract down, the stomach showed signs of derangement, evinced by vomiting, indigestion, pain, obstinate constipation. About the same time a severe headache set in, accompanied with dizziness, paralysis of the muscles of one side of the face, &c. No near relatives have ever suffered from scrofulous affections. Two aunts have died of cancer of the breast.

Prof. P. C. Dolley remarked that the case was a very rare and interesting one in several particulars, and asked the attention of the class to its several features. It belonged to that variety of cancerous tumor denominated *Scirrhus*, and the whole system, countenance, glandular apparatus, &c., showed strong and decided marks of the cancerous cachexia. There are at least two distinct varieties of cancers — one denominated encephaloid, and the other scirrhus, which differ from each other mainly in the firmness and density of their structure—the encephaloid resembling the brain in color and consistence, while the other, scirrhus, partakes of the character of the fibrous tumors, and is hard and dense. The matter comprising the encephaloid resembles brain no farther than in its consistence and color, and in being supported by a reticulated membrane. This reticulated membrane is fibrous, and in some cancer tumors it predominates over the other matter; and according to its quantity in a given part, will be its firmness—thus making the differences that are observed in different cases. If the tumor is mainly of this fibrous character, it will be of the scirrhus kind; but if composed mainly of the soft substance seen in encephaloid, it will constitute that variety. This soft substance is nothing more than the true cancer cells. The fibrous material was very abundant in the case before the class, and was not confined to the glands alone, but extended over a considerable portion of the surface of the chest, and under the axilla. The scirrhus might not all be of a malignant character, or there might not be any true cancer cells in that part

surrounding the gland. The cancer cell can only be distinguished by the microscope; but with the exception of shape, it does not differ materially from other cell growths in the system.

Both the scirrhus and encephaloid tumors are organized—the latter the most highly; and it is this organization, together with the *character of the cells*, probably, which gives the peculiar cancerous cachexia, which is seen in the later stages of the disease, and particularly after the tumor softens. When the softening takes place, the cancer cells are taken up by the absorbents and carried to other glands, are introduced to the circulation, and the whole system becomes contaminated with a disease, which at first was only local. It will be seen by this, that a cure in the later stages, when the whole system is brought under its influence, by any means would not be very likely, as there would be cell-germs in distant parts capable of developing themselves and originating new tumors after the first was destroyed or removed. The physician could then only palliate, by attention to the diet, and by regulating the condition of the system so as to keep the functions in as good a condition as possible.

It was probable in the case before the class, that through this cancerous cachexia, there had been a scirrhous development in the stomach, as also in the meninges of the brain, which would account for the various symptoms proceeding from the two organs. The treatment for this case would be upon the general principles above indicated.

Mr. D., aged 31,—Of a light complexion, slightly stooping form, and a partially scrofulous diathesis. Is a farmer by occupation; general health is good; and suffers only from an inflammation of the tarsal cartilages of the lids of both eyes. The sight is not much impaired; and the sclerotic coat, cornea and conjunctiva, are in a tolerably healthy condition. The cartilages have been affected for 12 years—lids swollen—and the bulbs of the eye-lashes considerably diseased. The case was one not at all uncommon. Inflammation of the tarsal cartilages is apt to become chronic, and to prove tedious and obstinate, for two or more reasons. One is, from the location of the inflammation where healthy processes are carried on so slowly; and another is, the constitutional taint that is so frequently found in connection with it. In consequence of the constitutional taint found in this case, it would be necessary to resort to measures to correct it—as general bathing, alteratives, issues, &c. For the eye itself, a mild treatment would at first be indicated, till the inflammation and irritation were nearly or quite subdued, after which stimulating and astringent washes might be used. The vegetable astringents and stimulants would probably do best in this case; but nitrate of silver might be necessary, or veg. caustic to correct the condition of the bulbs of the eye-lashes. Setons, or issues at the back of the neck, or upon the arm, would be of essential service.

Mr. C., aged about 28,—Of a sanguine temperament, strong robust constitution, never has had any sickness except one course of bilious fever, in which he was thoroughly mercurialized. The face became affected years since, and although slight at first, it has ob-

stinately resisted all the treatment resorted to. Commenced with small suppurating pimples or tubercles, which gradually increased in size and number till the whole chin and upper lip were involved, together with some portion of the cheeks, &c. Is now confined mainly to the chin and upper lip, and there is so much suppuration as to keep the beard thoroughly matted together. Some few clusters of these tubercles upon different parts of the face, and the base is swollen and red, but not attended with a great amount of soreness.

The disease evidently belonged to that class of cutaneous affections of the face in which the follicles were affected—and in this one particular could it be distinguished from some other facial cutanei, as impetigo figurata—(moist tetter)—&c. Is pretty clearly a case of *sycosis*, frequently called Barber's itch.

The cause of this affection is not well understood, as it occurs in persons of different constitutions, and under different circumstances. Is doubtless much more readily developed in the scrofulous, and particularly where there is some cause of irritation for some considerable time upon the hair, or sebaceous follicles. It has been thought to be contagious, and that it was frequently communicated to different persons shaving with the same razor. In the chronic form, it is frequently very tedious, and resists all modes of treatment for a long time. It is easily mistaken for impetigo figurata. Treatment directed to the general system would be indicated—as cathartics, alteratives, and perhaps tonics. Local treatment should also be resorted to at the same time. For alteratives—podophyllin, iridin, styllingia sylvatica, or alterative syrup, general bathing, &c. For local applications—the irritating plaster, tar ointment, acetous tincture of sanguinaria, tincture of arnica and lobelia, or perhaps as strong a solution of the mineral acids as would be borne. All inflammatory excitement should be subdued by poultices, wet compresses, &c., and the parts kept well cleansed by soap and water, or alkaline washes.

Mr. D., aged 30 Years,—A laborer of temperate and chaste habits, but recently married. For 12 years has labored under extensive enlargement of the right testicle—the gland at this time being some four or five times its natural size. No pain, no soreness, and no fluctuation and translucency. The epididymis not discoverable on the posterior side of the testicle. Prof. L. C. Dolley diagnosed Cystic disease, or Hydatids. Remarked that this was a disease of very rare occurrence, and consisted of a large number of cysts, supposed to be developed from the tubuli seminiferi, separated by a solid fibrinous substance. The disease being unattended with tenderness and pain, and not resulting from acute inflammation, nor venereal affections, it need not be mistaken for sarcocele—(chronic inflammation of the testicle.) It lacked the translucency, fluctuation, and other characteristic symptoms of hydrocele. Was less painful and too soft for scirrhus, and need only be confounded with hydrosarcocele. The disease, though not malignant, has been triumphantly indifferent to the past resources of medical science. Standard authors recommend no treatment but excision when the testicle becomes very large. Recommended the local application of hot

vapor daily, followed with tincture of iodine, strammonium and other discutients, and the India Rubber Sac.

Master R. S., aged 11 Years,—Of slender form, inherits but little scrofula, or other hereditary taint. Suffers from chronic enlargement of the tonsils, of several years' standing. Has long had a frequent hacking cough, which is now considerably aggravated by a cold. General health good. Prof. Dolley, after explaining the location and structure of the tonsils, remarked that chronic enlargement was a frequent sequela in this country of quinsy, which is nothing less than acute inflammation of these glands. The disease is much more frequent in scrofulous patients, and often impedes respiration, swallowing, and distinct articulation. By obstructing the Eustachian tubes, the enlarged glands frequently occasion more or less deafness. These glands serve wise purposes in the animal economy—one of which is, in his opinion, to regulate the ingress and egress of air in respiration, to serve as gates to the lungs. They are found enlarged more frequently in those predisposed to consumption, and probably so control the amount of air passing into and out of the lungs, as to keep well expanded the air cells in those portions tending to disease; and thus, in many instances, prevent consumption, or materially retard its progress. Ramage's and Fitch's breathing tubes exerted a similar influence over the lungs, and hence were often valuable aids in the treatment of consumption. Their excision was often performed with the instruments he exhibited, as he had described. Many eminent practitioners disapprove of their removal in strong terms. The operation is seldom necessary, and is not required in this case.

Recommended cold sponging and friction daily.

A gargle composed of tincture of iodine, tincture of bloodroot and tincture of nut galls, equal parts of each, to be applied night and morning with a probang, to be alternated with a strong decoction of geranium made strongly alkaline with sesqui-carbonate of potash.

The alterative syrup, with the addition of hydriodate of potash, to be taken daily. If not very much relieved after a reasonable length of time by these measures, a purulent discharge to be kept up upon the external surface near the glands with the irritating plaster for a considerable length of time.

Other interesting cases among which was a permanently flexed finger, straightened by the removal of a portion of the second phalangeal bone—the removal of an encysted tumor, &c., operations performed by Prof. L. C. Dolley, are omitted for want of space.

L. C. D.

Monthly Medical Abstract.[1]

Opium and the wet sheet in typhus fever.—Dr. Austin Flint, in an essay on the management of continued fever, in the Buffalo Medical Journal, reports cases successfully treated with *opiates, and the wet sheet pack.* Speaking of these cases he says, "they are too few for the purposes of induction. So far as they go, however, they afford

evidence, in the first place, of the safety of making a trial of these methods. This is a point of primary importance. With the present uncertainty attending the employment of any measures to cut short, or abridge the duration of Continued Fever, we should be hardly justified in resorting to those which, if not successful, would be likely to impair the chances of passing through the disease with safety. In this respect the three methods of treatment just mentioned, quinine, opium, and the wet sheet, compare favorably with others that have formerly been in repute, viz: Copious bloodletting, Emetics and Cathartics." Quite liberal. Some with less goodness and wisdom would call Dr. Flint irregular and refuse to consult with him.

Dr. Kuchenmeister states, that impure and noncrystalized gentianine may be used instead of sulphate of quinine. He contends: 1st. That gentianine acts as efficaciously on the spleen as quinine. 2d. That fifteen or thirty grains, twice a day are sufficient. 3d. That gentianine is certainly the most valuable succedaneum to quinine which has ever been used.—*London Lancet.*

Dr. Valentine Mott has been recalled to the Professorship of Surgery, and the Presidency of the Medical Department of the University of New York. Dr. Van Buren will fill the chair vacated by the death of Prof. Pattison.

A Rare and Bold Surgical Operation.—W. Burnham, M. D., Prof. of Obstetrics and Surgery in the Worcester Medical Institution, successfully removed, on the 19th of February, an ovarian tumor, weighing *fifty-two* pounds, growing from the left ovary of a young lady, twenty years of age, a resident of Meriden, Ct. The left fallopian tube and broad lignment, as also the omentum were involved in the tumor. The incision through the abdominal walls was thirteen inches in length, extending from the pubis upwards along the median line.

The fifth annual meeting of the American Medical Association, (Old School) will be held in Richmond, Va., on Tuesday, May 4th, 1852, one week before the meeting of the National E. M. Association in Rochester.

The Little Aztec Children are still exhibited in New York, and overrun with visitors; and many speculations naturally arise respecting their origin.

During the past year 7800 persons have been vaccinated in the London Vaccine Institute.

During the last three years the wives of 9 men have been brought to the Massachusetts State Lunatic Hospital, at Worcester, in consequence of their husbands going to California. The whole number of patients in the New Jersey Lunatic Asylum, Jan. 1st, was 347.

The yellow fever is again rife at Surinam, S. A. A vessel on its way from thence to Boston lost two officers and two sailors by it.

The cold weather in New Orleans during the months of January and February seemed to favor the public health of that city. The mortality during that period, (as given in tables in the N. O. M. and S. Jour.) falls below the usual number.

Typhus Fever.—Dr. Samuel T. Teall, of Lockport, N. Y., in a communication to the State Convention upon typhus fever, stated that the same was prevailing in that village to an alarming extent. He had had at that time forty-eight different patients under his treatment with the loss of but one. The treatment he pursued was, to administer first a stimulating and nauseating tea made from Bayberry, Ginger, Scullcap and Lobelia, equal parts, finely pulverized and mixed, a teaspoonful of the mixture to half a teacupfull of boiling water.—This with the addition of a little milk and sugar; to be given in teaspoonful doses every thirty minutes, or oftener when the fever was on, and when no fever was present, once in three hours. Powders of Podophyllin and Leptandrin of the usual size were administered every three hours until cathartic effects were secured. The stools produced by these agents were usually black or green, though sometimes yellow. He recommended frequent sponging of the whole surface with alkaline fluids, and the application of cloths to the head wrung from cold water. White root (*asclepius tuberosa,*) valerian, quack-grass, and bugle-weed (*lycopus virginica,*) were also recommended in infusion or syrup. Bathed feet in hot water often, and changed bed and wearing apparel as often as every second day.

M. Rush, M. D., of London, has issued a book of three hundred pages describing a system of practice called "Kinesipathy," by which diseases are treated by blows, "choppings" and other "movements" calculated to influence the circulation, absorption, and innervation of different parts of the system.

It is stated that 40,000 persons died with cholera in Jamaica during the past year. The disease is still raging in some parts of the island with great severity. L. C .D.

Miscellany.

A WORD TO SUBSCRIBERS.—Many subscribers have already sent in their arrears. Others have failed to do so. We must once more request those owing us *one*, *two*, or *three* years subscription dues, to remit the same at once, and allow us to square their accounts. We are now receiving substantial pecuniary and other encouragements, from friends abroad, who have interested themselves in our behalf. We shall soon take the liberty to send on our bills to delinquents, and follow the same, if not very soon responded to, by placing a duplicate in the hands of the proper authorities, and discontinuing to such our Journal. We hope our friends will not compel us to adopt unpleasant measures. Meanwhile, our warmest thanks, and kindly remembrance, are due those who have so promptly come to our aid; and we trust that the increasing value of our Journal may amply compensate their well-doing.

CANADA AWAKE.—Our largest list of subscribers yet, from one individual, has come from Canada. We have the promise of more from the same quarter. It would seem as if Yankee enterprise and ingenuity were for once to be outdone. What say our friends in New York? Three-fourths of the year remain to work in. Look sharp, friends, for premiums.

RECEIPTS.—We are sometimes asked to send receipts. Such will always appear on the cover of the Journal.

NIAGARA AND ERIE CO. E. M. SOCIETY.—The Report of proceedings came to hand too late for full insertion. The Society met in Lockport, Feb. 10, Dr. G. D. Kuchler in the chair; Dr, J. S. Kuchler, Sec, The following Officers were chosen for the ensuing year:—Dr. S. T. Teall, Pres.; Dr. W. Granger, V. Pres.; Dr, J. S. Kuchler, Sec'y and Treas. Drs. G, D, Kuchler, Learned, and Morrell were chosen a Committee to draft a Certificate of Membership.

Dr. G. D. Kuchler reported a case of Neuralgia of 14 years standing, permanently cured. Also one of Anasarca of 12 years standing, cured. Also articles on Typhoid fever, &c. Voted that the article on Anasarca be published in the E. J. of Medicine. Various Reports followed from members of the Society.

Resolutions were passed favorable to the publication of proceedings of County Societies, and approving the changes made in the E. Journal of Medicine; also directing the publication in the Journal, of the Reports.

Signed, Dr. S. T. Teall, Pres.; Dr. J. S. Kuchler, Secy.

Our friends in Niag. and Erie Co. will pardon this sketch, both in view of time, and of the great press of matter on hand. It is our desire to make the Journal as practical and valuable to all readers as our space and materials will permit; and we doubt not they will approve of condensed Reports, in view of the greater advantages to accrue to readers in general.

WATER GAS.—It seems that this gas has become a reality on the other side of the water. A contract has been made for lighting the village of Dunkeld with it. Dr. Miller, of Manchester, is the patentee. In the manufacture of the gas, Hydrogen is first obtained by the decomposition of water, and then passed into another retort, and "Carbonized." The gas is cheap, and emits neither smell nor smoke in the manufacture or burning. So says the Perth Courier, as copied by the London Lancet.

HEALTH INSURED.—*Ninety-eight graduates* have just been sent forth by the Medical Department of the N. Y. University, and the additional number of *fifty-nine* from the (Crosby Street,) College of Physicians and Surgeons. The New York Medical College has a batch to add. Truly, the army of Æsculapius furnishes the most untiring warriors known to history. Though worsted on many a hard-fought field, the ranks are ever full, and every man stands ready and anxious to "charge!"

MEDICAL EDUCATION.—Certain physicians in Charleston, S. C., have it in contemplation to establish a Preparatory School of Medicine in that place. The move is a good one. There is apt to be great lack on the part of medical students of the scientific and classical education which are indispensable pre-requisites to a rapid, easy, and complete mastery of the complex science and art of Medicine.

ARTICLES on the Concentrated Remedies of the Eclectic Pharmacy, embracing some *new preparations* not yet described, are promised by a competent writer. We hope to present the first of a series, in our next issue. Our thanks are due Drs. Cleaveland and John, for their interesting communications in this number.

GLANDERS.—It is proposed in England to destroy at once all horses affected with this "foul and fatal disease." Indeed, this seems the only justifiable course, if the lives of men are to be regarded.

TEST OF MUSCULAR ENDURANCE.—At the instance of the Medical Faculty of New Orleans, a Capt. Tompkins has undertaken and accomplished the feat of walking sixty consecutive hours without sleep or rest. The sum of $5000 was paid the peripatetic as his compensation. a.

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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

On the New Physiological Doctrines of a New Physiological Era.

BY PROF. L. REUBEN.

(Concluded from page 145.)

But I am admonished to be more brief, and shall therefore notice, in a few words, the second element in the physiological progress of our day, namely;—

II. Organic Chemistry. By this I mean not the accidental analysis of some one solid or fluid of the human body, or the disconnected examinations of a score of organic compounds or forms.

By Organic Chemistry I mean that complete science, (not yet fully developed, indeed,) in which an analysis of every fluid and solid of the body, and that under every varying set of external conditions, is made to reveal the chemical relations of every one of its components to every other; thus establishing a connected, complete, sufficient Chemical Physiology of the entire organism.

True, there are laws and forces of the body which we may as well call *vital*, as by any other name,—vital laws, vital forces,—but by these expressions we only mean laws and forces operating within a living body which are not known to operate out of it. But when we have admitted all these, we find the purely Physical and Chemical processes of our bodies covering a vast out-ground, with which the vital have nothing directly to do; besides that we must shrewdly suspect them of approaching the very sanctum of Being, and underlying the vital and even the spiritual forces and manifestations. It is a startling fact that my friend cannot recognise me in that outline of

face and form with which he is familiar, nor I conceive a benevolent feeling towards him, and wish him "good morning," without a whirl of atoms in his brain, and a whirl of atoms in mine, a flaming of Phosphorus, there consumed by Oxygen, and a giving up of solid elements of the brains of both, to the world of lifeless matter from which we had briefly purloined, each his share! Chemical Physiology has demonstrated all this.

In fact, Chemistry can no longer be confined to fields of inert matter. Chemistry invades Man; she has swept the outposts, and there are some who tremble for the *citadel*. But we have no cause for fear. The citadel is impregnable. Without *force*, there could be no *motion*; without *motion*, no *life*. But *force* is not *matter*; and therefore it is *that which alone is not matter*, namely MIND. Force is a manifestation or form of mind. Life is merely the *result* of such manifestation. Mind—the creative—cannot yield to Chemical Science—the creature. Mind is not matter, as the ruler is not the ruled.

Chemistry not long since took possession of man, armed with her furnace, crucible, and *et ceteras*. But she soon flung these away; for she found in the stomach a good crucible, in the blood-vessels a furnace, plenty of coal in the blood and near by in the tissues, and an admirable bellows throwing a constant stream of air upon the flame.—Her anticipations were more than realized!

To Liebig is due the honor of first proposing a systematic and connected plan of Chemical Physiology. Undoubtedly he was somewhat enthusiastic, and thus led astray in some points; but the totality of his discoveries and doctrines, is nevertheless invaluable. He has been followed and assisted by such men as Simon, Mulder, Scherer, Lehmann, Prout, Draper, and a host of others, who, with their great leader, are probably all living and engaged in the prosecution of chemico-physiological researches.

What now are the most important of the discoveries of these investigators? I answer:

1. That all the fluids and solids in a human body are either *chemical elements*, or *definite chemical compounds*.

2. That many of these compounds are identical with those existing in plants; the Albumen in the blood being the same with that found in the cabbage, and so on.

3. That plants alone can *form* organic compounds, by drawing together the scattered elements, and imprisoning them in a new substance; while animals may *transform* these in a degree, after they have been thus generated.

4. That almost all, and perhaps *all* the transformations of substances of whatever nature within the limits of a vegetable or animal structure, take place according to purely Physical and Chemical principles.

5. That the only reason why some of these identical transformations do not occur out of living bodies, is because out of such bodies the substances in question cannot be placed in the requisite conditions, and acted on in the same way, as within them.

6. That many of these identical transformations, the conditions of which can be secured out of living bodies, do take place, on a large or small scale, out of such bodies. Thus a living man's blood emits a constant stream of Carbonic acid gas upward, and a less stream of liquid Sulphuric and Phosphoric acids downward; and so actually in effect does a burning forest, or a volcano!

7. That not only the vegetative processes of the human and other living bodies, but even the vital and spiritual actions, are all accompanied by some *chemical change* of the matter of the organism in action, which chemical change is essential to the manifestation of the vegetative, vital, or spiritual act, as the case may be.

8. That the *digestion* of food is an act of *chemical solution*, the solids of the food being merely reduced to a fluid form by the action of a complex solvent—the gastric juice. A meal of food may be digested in an earthen dish, as well as in the stomach, allowing a little additional time.

9. That some of the constituents of the digested food enter the circulation by mere transudation or *endosmosis* through the intervening membranes, a process which takes place just as perfectly through a moist membrane, or other porous partition, out of the body.

10. That the rest of the digested food is introduced, accidentally as it were, through the action of growing *cells*, which absorb it, and rupturing pour it into the lacteal vessels.

11. That the function of Assimilation is probably performed by growing cells,—the colorless corpuscles of the blood.

12. That the function of nutrition takes place under the direction of an *elective affinity* in each different tissue, for the materials suited to promote its growth. That this process is termed a *vital* process—yet it is purely *vegetative* in its character, and the idea of it can hardly be separated in our minds from that of purely chemical and physical actions.

13. That the growth of cells is, in all cases, a vegetative process, an act of simple nutrition,—the fixation of fluid atoms in a solid structure.

14. That the various Secretions and Excretions of the human body are separated by acts of simple cell-growth or transudation in the parts in which they present themselves. Pure water filters through the kidneys somewhat as through bibulous paper, and mixes afterward in the organ with the more characteristic matters of that secretion. The human body constantly exhales water at every pore until its atmosphere is saturated, as would a dish of water in the sun, or any moist body hung out to dry.

15. That Oxygen and Nitrogen gases constantly penetrate through the membrane of the lungs into the blood, and Carbonic acid gas, watery vapors, and Nitrogen pass as freely in the opposite direction, upon the principle that these gaseous bodies always tend to diffuse themselves equally through all spaces from which they are not forcibly debarred; and that a moist membrane presents but a slight barrier to their passage.

16. That the heat of the human body, like that of a furnace, radiates incessantly through space; and that a continued fresh supply of

this agent is evolved, as in the furnace, by simple combustion, i. e., peculiar chemical change.

17. That every muscular and mental act is accompanied by an act of chemical decomposition in the organ exercised.

18. That in every act of chemical combination or decomposition, a disturbance of heat and electricity, and perhaps the production of light and motion must take place,

19. That the circulation of the blood is largely, perhaps mainly, due to the action of chemical and nutritive affinities upon the current of fluid, within the capillaries of the general system and of the lungs.

20. That the tendency of the vegetative forces is constantly to compose, add to, and enlarge the physical fabric; that of the animal powers is to produce decomposition, diminution, destruction of it.—The mass, or weight of the human body, moves through life under the constant action of these two forces, as would a body similarly acted upon through the air, in the curve of a double *parabola;* increasing gradually, but never to the bulk which the vegetative powers acting alone would give it; and then diminishing gradually, but never to so low a point as that to which the animal powers, acting alone, would reduce it.

Under the ultimatum of vegetative force, a body should continue to grow until it had absorbed all the organizable material of the globe into itself; and under the ultimatum of animal activity, it should not cease to live and act until the last particle quit its hold on its fellow, and mind and life simultaneously departed from an organism reduced to dimensions less than those of a grain of sand!

III. One word only with reference to the last named element in the physiological progress of the age, namely, TIME.

All *made* theories—theories wrought out by the efforts of a single mind—are most likely, in the end found to be erroneous or defective, and to require rejection or remodeling.

True theories, on the other hand,—theories, I mean, which come as near truth as the existing condition of our knowledge will allow,—are the work of time and improvement. *False or imperfect theories may be made; but true theories grow.*

Hence, the theories of the past—no matter how recent that past, if new theories have since grown, are like the imperfect scholastic efforts of one's boyhood. No truly scientific man would willingly go back to them!

In correctness and value, the scientific doctrines of the present rise above those of the past, in a geometrical ratio. But correct practice seldom comes except by correct doctrine. Hence, an *improved medical practice* must wait for, and come after, an improved medical science, especially an improved Physiology.

In view of this important principle, who, I ask, could be a conservative in medical practice?

And in view of the new physiological doctrines that have so lately risen upon the world, and of the potent influence these must yet have in changing the entire aim and course of the medical practitioner, who, I ask, would not be a rational ECLECTIC?

Active Principles of Ambrosia Elatior.

BY W. ELMER, M. D.

Ambrosine.—This important base is found, associated with *Elatine*, in the *Ambrosia elatior*. Its ultimate analysis has not been satisfactorily obtained. Its formula, therefore, is not established. With diluted sulphuric acid, it forms beautiful and brilliant crystals, in the form of prisms, having a pearly, satin-like appearance. It is destitute of any marked taste or odor; a fact which renders it very agreeable and convenient of administration. The most delicate or sensitive stomach will retain it.

The *Elatine* is a base also found in the *Ambrosia elatior*, in much larger quantities than the Ambrosine. It is obtained in the form of a white, flocculent precipitate. The medical properties of Elatine, have not been as fully tested as those of Ambrosine, but it produces similar effects, and is indicated in the same class of diseases. Dose from two to four grains.

These bases are *tonic*, *alterative* and *diuretic* in their effects. The virtues of the *ambrosine* have been sufficiently tested, to enable us to reccommend it to the confidence of the profession, as a remedy of great merit. It is employed with much success in the treatment of the various forms of dropsy. I have no doubt that physicians will find it a remedy of more value, in the cure of this class of diseases, than any other medical agent that has been discovered, in this or any previous age. Its tonic and alterative powers tend to restore the lost *vitality* of the system at the same time that its diuretic properties are manifested. Especially is it valuable in correcting that flabby condition of the muscles, which is always conspicuous in dropsy. A physician of this city has succeeded, by the use of the *Ambrosine*, in almost a complete cure of a case of disease of the kidneys, (the precise nature I did not learn,) but the patient had been afflicted with the malady from infancy, aud rendered nearly helpless by it.

In *nephritis* and *albuminuria*, the Ambrosine is also given with success. Its greatest benefits are manifested in the treatment of dropsy. The crude herb has been used in several cases, that came within my knowledge, with entire success. Dr. Beach relates a case of hydrothorax, treated with this remedy, of which he says, "the patient was so far gone as to have the appearance of being able to survive but a few hours longer. It, (the Ambrosia,) immediately evacuated the water: all the symptoms subsided, and the patient was soon convalescent."

As an *alterative* and *tonic*, the new preparation is also valuable in the treatment of consumption, diabetes, scrofula, and other forms of disease. It is to be regretted, however, that, as yet, we have not been able to obtain it in sufficient quantities, to supply even a tenth of the demand for it. This difficulty we anticipate will in part at least, be remedied, when we have an opportunity of supplying our laboratory with the new crop of this valuable plant.

Dose of the Ambrosine, from one to three grains, 3 to 6 times a day.

A. P. Institute, New-York, March, 1852.

Epidemic Enteric Fever.

BY W. PAINE, M. D.

An Epidemic form of fever having prevailed through this section of country, and having myself had considerable experience in treating this disease, as well as of observing the treatment of the Old School, I have thought a few suggestions on this subject may not be uninteresting to the readers of your Journal. On my return from Cincinnati, about the first of March, 1851, I found a peculiar form of disease prevailing in this section, which proved very fatal in the hands not only of the Old School, but also of some Pseudo-Eclectics. The disease received different names from different practitioners, and accordingly, a great variety of treatment was instituted; but as far as I could learn, all proved equally abortive.

In a short time after my return I was called to see one of Dr. W.'s cases. The patient, he said, was laboring under an affection of the lungs and liver, with a low grade of fever, the precise character of which he did not pretend to describe. The supposed liver disease, however, furnished sufficient assurance for the administration of mercurials, *ad libitum*; and of course, *in the eye of the Æsculapian, the pectoral difficulties would strongly call for antimonials.* The symptoms which I found present were as follows: Pulse about 110; respiration languid; skin dry; tongue loaded with a dark brown fur, save the extreme end, which was extraordinarily red, with marked elevation of the papillæ; the bowels tympanitic, with retention of urine, from stricture of the urethra. The rhythm of the heart was very unsteady; while a physical exploration of the chest gave satisfactory evidence that the disease was not of a pulmonic character. The liver was of its normal size, and appeared to be sufficiently active; but deep pressure along the ascending and descending colon, together with the sudamina, &c., revealed the secret that the disease was a species of the Enteritis of Broussais, or the common Enteric, or typhoid fever, which prevails both endemically and epidemically in our country.

From this case I was immediately called to others; and although I did not find in any two cases exactly the same symptoms present, yet on careful examination, I found the disease to be in all essentially the same. The symptoms most common were tympanitis (bloating,) in a greater or less degree, sudamina, (little vesicles on the skin,) hemorrhage, nervousness, dry tongue, sordes (black filth) upon the teeth, retention of urine, tenderness of the bowels, especially upon deep pressure, with frequent ulceration of the glands of Peyer and Brunner. By auscultation, the bronchial rale was generally detected.

It was seldom, indeed, that all these symptoms were present in any one case. In some cases the diarrhea seemed to be the most prominent symptom; in others, hemorrhage, either from the nose or bowels, and in others, delirium, nervousness, vomiting, &c. Nor was the disease less irregular in modes with which it made its ap-

pearance. In some cases it was ushered in with a distinct chill, whilst in others a peculiar languidness only, and a slight indisposition was felt on the part of the patient. My object in this communication, however, is to give my treatment of this disease. This has proved entirely successful in my hands for the last year, myself and partner, (Dr. T. G. Horton,) having treated two hundred cases.

TREATMENT:—If called in the first stage of the disease, and there were symptoms of morbid accumulations in the stomach, I generally premised the treatment with a gentle emetic of lobelia, ipecac and blood root. I then had the patient washed in tepid ley water; I commenced giving the following medicine:—Tinct. aconite, common strength, one drop, every one or two hours, in ½ tumbler of cold water, until there was free diaphoresis. At the same time if there was local pain, I wet a cloth in spirits of camphor, and applied over the seat of the pain. After continuing the aconite 6 or 8 hours, I give the following powder; quinine, 18 grains; prussiate of iron, 18 grs.; lactine,* 18 grs.; triturate one hour, then divide into 6 powders; I give one every 3 hours. During the administration of these powders, if there is fever, I repeat the aconite. After the powders are taken, I always arouse the secretions with the following powder: Podophyllin, Sanguinarine, Pteline, of each 10 grs.; Lactine, 30 grs.; triturate two hours in a mortar, divide into 12 powders, give one every 2½ hours until they act upon the bowels, or until all are taken; and if the bowels do not then move, I move them with a small portion of castor oil.

During this round of treatment particular attention is to be paid, to the surface, and to local symptoms, in the way of external applications of camphor. Especially let this be applied over the pubes if there is retention of urine. If hemorrhage from the bowels should occur, I immediately bathe the bowels with spirits of turpentine, and apply a strong mustard plaster; and at the same time ligature the legs and arms. These measures never fail to arrest the hemorrhage immediately.

If delirium supervenes, I give Belladonna, one grain, triturated with ten grs. of sugar of milk, and divide into powders. Give one every 2 hours until this symptom is relieved. If there is much nervousness, Cypripedium may be given in the same way. If soreness of the bowels, I give Rhus Toxicodendron and Bryonia, alternated, and prepared in the same manner as the Belladonna. If there is much debility, with Pectoral symptoms, I administer Phosphorus. This treatment in my hands has arrested the disease, in eight cases out of ten, in the course of from five to eight days. But when the cases have assumed a more formidable character, I have invariably effected a cure by repeating the treatment, after palliating the case for five or six days.

During medical treatment I have been in the habit of proscribing all articles of food, save corn starch gruel, rice water, and crust coffee; but after the patient becomes convalescent, a nutritious diet is advisable.

Warren Co., Ohio, March, 1852.

* Sugar of Milk.

SELECTIONS.

Cases of Acute Rheumatism Cured by Lemon Juice—under the care of Dr. Babington.

In 1850 we directed the attention of our readers to a new and successful method of treating acute rheumatism, introduced by Dr. Owen Rees. The favorable results had been obtained by the administration of lemon juice, and we then stated, "it appears that Dr. Rees' colleagues, Drs. Addison and Babington, who coincide with him in his views as to the efficacy of the remedy, have put the lemon juice to the test, and found it extremely useful." Further trials have had the effect of establishing more and more the great value of lemon juice as a therapeutical agent in acute rheumatism; and so convinced has Dr. Babington become of the value of this simple medicine, that we find him state, in the introductory lecture for this session, that Dr. Rees' new method of treating acute rheumatism held a prominent rank among the strides which have been made in the various departments of medical knowledge since his (Dr. Babington's) pupilage.

It is certainly with good reason that Dr. Babington passed this encomium, for he has prescribed the lemon juice in numerous cases, and has found it answering his most sanguine expectations. Of a few of these cases we shall subjoin extracts, in order to put our readers in posession of the facts upon which rests the reputation of the new remedy. We would first, however, mention some remarks of great importance, which were made by Dr. Babington.

The lemon juice which was employed was procured from a wholesale confectioner, the price being no more than sixpence per pint, when retailed in small quantity, and considerably less when furnished by the gallon. When Dr. Babington commenced making trials of the lemon juice, he prescribed it according to the recommendation of Dr. Owen Rees, in doses of from one to two ounces, three times a day, for an adult. More recently, however, he had ordered not less than three ounces, and much more—usually six ounces—taken at a draught, and without any admixture, three times a day. It might be supposed that the patient would find some difficulty in drinking so large a quantity of such a sour liquid, but this is rarely the case; nor does it in general produce tormina, nor otherwise disagree with the alimentary canal. Instead of relaxing the bowels, as might have been expected, it renders them somewhat costive, so that it not unfrequently becomes necessary to exhibit an aperient. The juice produces no very decided effect upon the kidneys, merely tending by its quantity to promte their secretion. It increases cutaneous action, but to what extent it is difficult to determine, because in rheumatism, a disease in which this remedy is chiefly useful, the complaint itself is marked by the occurrence of profuse perspiration. The only equivocal effect which uniformly takes place, is a diminution in the number and power of the pulse, and of the heart's action.

Whether it alters the character of the blood, or whether it affects the heart by diminishing nervous influence, Dr. Babington has not had an opportunity of determining.

We shall now shortly allude to four cases which were treated with lemon juice by Dr. Babington.

Case I.—James D———, a tall and athletic young man, a dock laborer, 22 years of age, was admitted into Naaman's ward, Aug. 20, 1851, with acute rheumatism. He has a white and coated tongue, profuse perspiration, thirst, a hard, full pulse at 92, and costive bowels. There are swellings in the knees and wrist, which are red and tender to the touch, and his debility is so great that he is scarcely able to walk to his bed.

The patient stated, on admission, that he had been ill three weeks, and that he had suffered from a similar attack eight years before, which lasted for one month. There were no irregular sounds about the heart.

Treatment.—To take six ounces of lemon juice three times a day; a drachm of compound rhubarb powder to be given on the morning following admission.

First Day.—Bowels relieved, pulse 76, softer; patient has less pain in the joints; to continue the remedy.

Third Day.—Pulse 70, soft; no pain or swelling of the joints. Patient is up and dressed; he declares himself quite well, and requests to be discharged. He is asked to remain a day or two longer to improve his general strength; but he declines, as he states he is well able to work.

Case II.—Samuel H———, aged 19, of slight form, a warehouse man, much exposed in his work to currents of air; never before had any similar attack. For four or five days he has had slight swelling and tenderness in the knees and ankles.

On admission into Naaman's ward, Sept. 10, 1851, there was great swelling, redness, and intense pain of the right elbow joint, extending both upwards for several inches and downward into the wrist. The tumefaction was so severe that it was a question whether the inflammation was not rather phlegmonous than rheumatic, but the pain and swelling in the other joints settled this point. Tongue moist, but white; pulse 116, full; bowels regular; skin perspirable. To take six ounces of lemon juice three times a day; low diet.

First Day.—Pulse 100, softer; bowels regular; arm and elbow-joint much the same as yesterday. To go on with the remedy.

Fifth Day.—Pulse 88, soft; the pain and swelling of the elbow have decreased rapidly since last visit, and are now very slight; bowels still regular.

Eighth Day.—No pain anywhere, but still some stiffness of the right elbow-joint, which prevents the complete extension of the arm; bowels regular.

Twelfth Day.—Dismissed, free from all complaint, and having the full use of his right arm, the elbow-joint of which has returned to its natural size. The patient required one dose of the compound rhubarb powder during the treatment.

CASE III.—James S———, aged twenty, a baker, much exposed to heat and cold in working at night; never before had a similar attack; has suffered for ten days pain and swelling of both shoulder joints; admitted into Naaman's ward on Sept. 10, 1851, having great pain in both shoulders, but especially the left, so that he is very reluctant to attempt to raise the left arm. Pulse 108, hard; skin hot; tongue white and dry, much febrile excitement; bowels confined. Ordered six ounces of lemon juice three times a day; fifteen grains of compound extract of colcynth to be taken at night.

First Day after Admission.—Bowels well relieved; pulse 82; less pain; to continue the lemon juice.

Fifth Day.—Pulse 80; pain and swelling much abated; to go on.

Eighth Day.—No pain or swelling; is able to raise both hands above his head, and, so far as regards the rheumatism, is well. Patient continues in the hospital in consequence of a swelling in the groin, which was opened two days after his admission, and is going on favorably. He required purgative medicine every alternate day while taking the lemon juice.

CASE IV.—John H———, aged twenty-two, single, a policeman, formerly a farm-laborer, with florid complexion, light hair, and strumous appearance; habits temperate. The patient was attacked with acute rheumatism three years ago, but has since had good health, until within the last fortnight, when he began to suffer with his present illness. The inner sides of each foot and ankle were first affected, and then the elbows and hands became swollen, red and painful, in which state he was admitted into Naaman's ward, No. 8, on July 9, 1851.

There was then a murmur heard on the heart's systole; pulse 104, hard, strong and incompressible; tongue coated and white; countenance congested; appetite gone; bowels costive; urine acid, specific gravity 1010, about one quart passed daily; perspiration profuse; pulse 82. Ordered lemon juice three times a day.

First Day after Admission.—The pain and swelling of the elbows and hands decreasing; ordered to continue the remedy.

Fifth Day.—The lemon juice seemed to cause a little griping pain in the bowels, which were moved twice a day whilst its use was continued. The pulse 80; small, weak and compressible. There remained no vestige of pain nor swelling anywhere.

Tenth Day.—Pulse still 80; no *bruit* heard now with the systole of the heart. The patient has been quite free from all complaint for several days. The pulse retains the same character as on the fifth day. Discharged cured.—*London Lancet.*

CURES FOR CONSTIPATION.—1. A free use of common Salt. 2. From half to a whole teaspoonful of Cayenne Pepper, in molasses, before each meal—both useful in cases of general prostration. 3. But there is nothing more serviceable than the free use of *Graham Flour*, in bread and plain puddings. This is a remedy and a luxury.

Stone and Gravel.

BY T. L. NICHOLS, M. D.

Calculous diseases are among the most frequent, distressing and incurable of all chronic ailments. The term calculus is applied to any solid or unorganized concretions found in the human body, and such concretions have been found in nearly all its mucous cavities and passages; in the tear-ducts, the mouth (tartar), tonsils, salivary ducts, stomach, intestines, biliary passages, bronchi, urinary canals, bladder, &c. Earthy concretions have also been found in the brain, and commonly surround bullets or foreign bodies imbedded in the sytem.

We shall direct our attention specially to the urinary calculi, as found in the kidneys and bladder. These are found by chemical analysis, to contain uric acid, urate of ammonia, urate of soda, phosphate of lime, ammonia, phosphate of magnesia, carbonate of lime, silica, cystic acid, xanthic acid, coloring matter of urine, purpurate of ammonia, fibrin, mucus, urea; more or less of these are found mixed together. I give this long, and to many readers, incomprehensible list, for a reason which will soon become apparent.

The urine is a liquid secreted from the blood by the kidneys. It consists of the surplus water of the blood, holding in solution effete, or waste, or foreign matters, from which it is needful that the blood should be purified. The quantity of water varies according to the amount drank or taken with food, and the activity of the function of perspiration. In warm weather, when we perspire much, the quantity of urine is diminished; in cold weather, when the skin is constringed, the urine is increased; but the difference is mainly in the proportion of water, and not in the matters it holds in solution. These matters are urea, uric acid, lactic acid, the sulphates and phosphates of potash, soda, ammonia, and many others, regular and occasional.

Where do these substances come from? From two sources; the food we eat, and the destruction of animal tissues, which takes place in every act of our lives. If we move, there is a destruction of muscular substance, and a formation of urea, ammonia, &c. If we think, there is a destruction of brain. This waste is repaired by nutrition, and the waste matter must be carried out of the system by various excretories.

When certain substances in the urine are in excess, or when they come in contact with other substances having for them particular affinities, they are liable to be precipitated in a solid form, making gravel; or, if united in larger masses, stone. When there is any substance to form the nucleus of accretion, as a clot of blood, membrane, any solid substance in the bladder, the formation of stone is favored and expedited; but it is plain that an atom of gravel may be itself the nucleus of such a formation.

The most common form of calculus is that denominated the *uric* or lithic acid calculus, consisting of urea, combined with some free acid, with the usual addition of ammonia. The urate of ammonia requires

a certain amount of water to dissolve it; whenever it is in excess, it must be thrown down as a sediment. Excess of muriatic acid or acetic acid in the stomach, may be a cause of calculi. These calculi are probably first found in the kidney; when they have attained a certain size, they pass down the ureters, often producing great pain, and are then voided by the urethra or retained in the bladder and gradually enlarged. Some of these are more than one inch and a half in diameter, and they usually occur in children.

Next in frequency is the oxalate of lime calculus. It is called the mulberry calculus, from its rough shape, and dark brown color.—There is one of these in the University of Glasgow, two inches in diameter.

Next to these are the phosphate of lime calculi. They are made of the same substances as the earthy portion of the bones, and sometimes grow to an enormous size, nearly filling the bladder.

The ammonia, phosphate of magnesia calculi are also not unfrequent.

There are few persons, whose urine does not at some times deposite a gravelly sediment, which may be precipitated either in the pelvis of the kidney's, in the bladder, or in the vessel, in which the urine is kept, after its excretion. Calculi of large size sometimes form in the kidney; but more frequently in the bladder. Women are less subject to the latter than men, one reason for which is supposed to be the shortness and dilatability of the female urethra favoring the excretion of gravel.

The passage of a large gravel through the ureters is often accompanied with nausea, vomiting, agonizing pains shooting down from the loin to the thigh: in men there may be retraction and inflammation of the testicle. The pulse is not affected, until a continuance of the irritation and pain produce inflammation and exhaustion. When the gravel is stopped in the ureter, that tube dilates with the pressure of urine, until it may become nearly as large as the bladder. The suppression of urine throws the effete matter back into the blood, and the consequence is delirium, coma, death.

Once in the bladder, the stone is at first of little inconvenience; but as its size and weight increase, and its roughness, it becomes the occasion of irritation, sharp pain, stoppage of urine, and many distressing symtoms. After jolting or smart exercise, the urine is mixed with blood, from the injury to the mucous membrane of the bladder. Mucus is also poured out to envelop the stone and shield the containing organ. This may also impede the flow of urine. The agony of a fit of the stone is excruciating, and the bladder and all the surrounding parts are in a state of spasmodic action. It is related that two men have, in these agonies, cut stones from their own bladders.

I have no desire to prolong my description of the nature and effects of these terrible diseases; my chief object in this article being to give what I believe to be their causes, prevention, and cure.

The causes of gravel and stone I believe to be a flesh diet, dyspepsy and its causes, and hard water. A flesh diet seems to me, to be

unquestionably the worst of these causes. The most frequent forms of calculi are those which come from an excess of urea. They occur oftenest in childhood, before the kidneys have learned to perform the additional labor of excreting the eaten flesh, in addition to the wasted matter of the tissues. Hard water and salt convey into the system a surplus of lime, soda, and magnesia. The free use of salt gives also a surplus of both soda and muriatic acid, which enter into the composition of calculi. A dyspeptic condition, from whatever cause, produces acids in the stomach, which pass off by the urine, and occasion gravelly precipitation. An unhealthy condition of the skin also throws these substances upon the kidneys. In a word, whatever can cause general disease may cause this particular form of it.

The preventive treatment extends to all these causes—a pure diet, soft water, and healthy conditions. A pure diet is one of farinaceous vegetables, esculents, and fruits, from which flesh is entirely, or, at least, in a great measure, excluded. Pure water may be had wherever rain falls, or by distillation; but fruits and the watery vegetables supply enough for the use of the system if but little salt be used. A healthy condition of the skin, exercise, and a good digestion, will insure against these diseases.

And in giving the preventive treatment, I have indicated nearly all that can be done when the disease exists. A spare, pure diet, healthy conditions, and a free use of pure, soft water, would suspend the formation of a calculus, and probably favor its resolution. The sitz bath, the compress over the bladder, and the wet sheet pack, would alleviate the worst symtoms of irritation, pain, and inflammation.— In the extreme agonies of gravel and stone, I have seen a wet sheet of four thicknesses, dipped in ice water wrapped around the patient, with immediate relief.

Where an operation is decided upon, the best possible preparation for it is a thorough course of Hydropathic treatment. The nerves are braced to bear the operation, and the system put in the best condition for a speedy recovery.

[*Water Cure Journal.*

Monumental Physicians.

"It takes all sorts of people to make a world," is a homely apothegm, containing a verity indisputable. So every calling in life is made up, of members exhibiting diversities of character. That of Medicine, as well as other pursuits, furnishes exemplifications of this truism. For critical examination we may subdivide the professors of the healing art into various groups, each distinguished by characteristic traits from the others. An attempt at classification of this sort may have some interest, and possibly be attended with profit. The disposition to criticise others is a common weakness, not always altogether amiable. It is often easier to do this than to recognize one's own peculiarities. That the faults of our brethren are viewed *microscopically*, while the personal defects of the observer never enter.

the field of his own vision, is but too frequently true. We cannot see ourselves as others see us. Nevertheless, if conducted with a right spirit, it may not be wholly a bootless occupation to study human character *objectively* as a matter of curious research; and such a study, indeed, may be useful, if the critic do not omit *subjective* examinations, and if he endeavor to apply the results of his inquiries, in either direction, to his own improvement.

The idea has occurred to us to portray some of the different classes of physicians, and by way of breaking ground in this unoccupied field of exploration, we propose, at this time, to say a few words of a group which we will designate the *monumental*. The reader might perhaps be somewhat non-plussed in trying to divine the significance of this adjective *monumental* as applied to a portion of the medical profession. The term, however, is something more than a mere rhetorical conceit. An eloquent teacher, in his parting remarks to a class of medical students, enjoined upon them the importance of unceasing application if they did not wish to remain living monuments of what medical science had been, instead of exemplifying its actual condition. This happy thought has suggested the epithet. We observe everywhere in the ranks of the profession, a certain number who represent the past, rather than the present. They are living monuments of former stages of the career of science. To understand their position our examination must be retrospective. They do not reflect science as it is, still less as it is to be, but perpetuate it as it has been.

We have said that monumental physicians exist every where.—There are none of our readers who cannot indicate, in their respective circles, persons of this stamp. They have, moreover, always existed. They are not of modern origin. They were abundant at the time of Harvey, if there be truth in the often reiterated statement that none of his brethren who were over forty years of age ever admitted the verity of the discovery of the circulation. These monumental physicians doubtless continued to represent in their teachings and practice the old doctrine that the arteries were air tubes! Harvey himself had something of the monumental element in his composition, for he obstinately refused to admit the discovery of the absorbent vessels. Jenner was surrounded with monumental physicians who ridiculed, scouted, and opposed a discovery which has saved millions of human beings from a loathsome disease. A marble monument, at this late day, is to be reared to the memory of that great benefactor of the race. One cannot help thinking how much better than this had it been if his monumental contemporaries had not withheld the encouragement and meed of praise which were his due.

Monumental physicians of the present time do not all represent the same period of the past. A few are the living representatives of medicine as it was forty or fifty years ago. Some carry us back a score of years; and others are only removed a single decade. Of the monuments of the first class in the order of time, we find some adhering still to the teachings of the immortal Rush. Such an one believes in the unity of disease, and, as a practitioner, his tendencies are sanguin-

ary. His lancet is bright and sharp, and always on hand for ready use. Bloodletting, so potent either for good or ill, is a daily operation with him. He is sure not to run any risk of letting his patients die for the want of this remedy. Other monuments of the same chronological class, (but these are comparatively few in number,) perpetuate the views and practice of the gifted, eccentric Brown. Thus, living monuments represent not only the different stadia of scientific progress, but different ideas incident to the state of science at the same era.

In monuments of a more modern date, Broussais still lives, and flourishes with perennial vigor. Inflammation, the fundamental pathological element in all diseases, and, deductively, leeches, with gum water for diet, form the basis of practice. The Hepatic pathology has its numerous monumental representatives. Regarded in the light of this pathology, a portion of the primeval curse was the infliction of a liver; the bile, as if it were a part of the innate depravity of man, is to be ejected by emetics and cathartics, and so long as a drop remains, the physical man is unregenerate.

To describe the different kinds of monumental representatives would involve a catalogue of all the more salient points of the history of medicine within the memory of those now living. We have not the materials for an analysis of this description. Our object is only to point out the distinctive characters which belong to the class.—The portrait of each specimen would present a certain individuality of physiognomy. The study, in its details, can be pursued by each observer with the models before him among those which fall within the scope of his personal acquaintance. Daguerreotype likenesses might be furnished in abundance, but the end would hardly repay the trouble.

Collectively, the members of the group under consideration have certain features in common which distinguish the genus, without descending to the multiplicity of particulars which pertain to individuals. The leading, most distinctive quality, is *fixedness of position.* While the progress of science and art is onward, they are stationary, occupying the same spot, with eyes reverted, not remembering Lot's wife! They can perceive nothing encouraging or attractive in recent developments, and still less is there aught in the prospective to awaken enthusiasm. Your monumental physicians are fond of talking of the superiority of times gone by. They are the very antipodes of the optimist. 'Medicine has lost much of its ancient character and claims' is a favorite remark. 'The profession is deteriorating.' 'There is no telling what is to be the end.' They even entertain serious apprehensions lest, with the march of pseudo-civilization, the whole world will by and by go over to quackery! 'The various forms of empiricism were certainly not so rampant in their young days.' They have a very low opinion of the younger class of physicians. They regard with distrust organizations for mutual improvement and the advancement of science. Consistency with them is indeed a jewel, for they never change. Experience is, in their view, the only source of scientific illumination, and the more experience they get the more

is their own confidence in their long established views and practice sure to be enhanced. They are outraged at the audacity of a newer generation in thinking and acting for themselves. Seniority, in their estimation, claims more than respect, it should be invested with authority, forgetting that it is as ungraceful on the one hand to insist upon the homage due to age, as it is, on the other hand, to withhold it in proper measure. But we need not extend the list of generic attributes; what has been mentioned will suffice for all purposes of *differential diagnosis*.

Let it not be said that the tenor of these remarks is calculated to depreciate the past condition of medicine. In placing a just regard on the character of our science at any former epoch, we are not alone to compare it with its present position. It would be indeed humiliating if such a comparison did not exhibit a contrast more or less striking. Constant progress is the law of this as of other departments of knowledge which do not spring from revelation. It is by the labors of its truth-loving votaries (not living monuments) in every age, that Medicine has advanced thus far in its onward course. It has become what it is by the aggregation of the products of each successive generation. Does any one doubt its progressive character? Such a skeptic is too ignorant of the subject to be qualified to form an opinion. Mark the changes that have transpired during the last quarter of a century! Look at the results of the application of physical signs to the diagnosis of the diseases of the heart and lungs; and, more recently, of the introduction of the microscope into the study of the solids and fluids in health and disease! Look at the nosological space now occupied by the neuroses, and consider that twenty years ago the misnomer *tic doloreux* was almost the sole representative of neuralgic affections. Look on the influence on practice which has resulted from a better appreciation of anæmia, from the recognition of the self-limited duration of various diseases, from the study of the natural history of essential fevers, from more correct views of the pathology of tuberculosis, from the light shed on the relations of the different alimentary constituents to nutrition and animal temperature, etc., etc. Some diseases, in this short period, have taken entirely new situations, e. g. diabetes has become an affection of assimilation, not of secretion; and, again, new diseases have been discovered, e. g. the *morbus Brightii*. All this is, we trust, supererogatory for our readers. But, we repeat, to place a just estimate upon any period in the past, we are to exhibit it not only in contrast with the present, but with a period still more remote. Medicine, a quarter of a century ago, was far in advance of the position which it held at the remove of a half century. Is it any disparagement of the physical sciences of by-gone years that such rapid strides have lately been made in their application to useful arts? Is the brilliancy of the discovery of Franklin dimmed by the fact that the electrical fluid has just been made subservient to telegraphic purposes? It was not less a glorious achievement, not very many years since, for Fulton to have performed the voyage from Albany to New York in a vessel propelled by steam, because at a still later period the more gigantic enterprise of crossing

the Atlantic by means of the same motive power has been accomplished. Let us honor the past, and reverence the names of those to whose genius and industry the world is indebted for its present stock of knowledge. But let the records of history and a just sense of our obligations take the place of living monuments, at least in medical science.

Will the captious reader say that our remarks are calculated to disparage a portion of the medical profession? The only rejoinder to this criticism is an appeal to the justness of the remarks. Are there not physicians even at the present moment who continue to sneer at the stethoscope as a useless toy? Are there not still more who virtually repudiate physical diagnosis? And is there not room for a similar question with respect to almost every other development of modern science?

A homily is not complete without an exhortation. The Science of Medicine is emphatically progressive. Not only has it advanced up to the present time, but its course is still to be onward. Do we represent its present or past condition? This is an inquiry for individual application. But this is only one of the points of view in which the subject comes home to our reflections. Shall we keep pace with its progressive march, or shall we at a future date, if life be spared, be the representatives of what now is, and not of what it is then to be? It is only by continued exertions, guided by a proper recognition of the law of progress, that we shall avoid becoming, if we are not already, *monumental physicians.*—*Buffalo Medical Journal.*

Popular Instruction in Physiology

Much may be done to sap the foundations of Quackery by judicious efforts in diffusing information on subjects pertaining to the science and practice of medicine. We do not mean to advocate the policy of making smatterers in pathology, therapeutics, or other branches of knowledge strictly professional in their character. There is quite enough assumption on these points already, so that the practitioner is often invited to regard the patient, or one or more of his friends, in the light of a consulting physician in the cases he is called on to treat. We have no idea of attempting to qualify the non-medical public for critical animadversions on the measures pursued in the cases of disease which come under observation.* The practitioner meets with enough assurance already on this score among his friends and their neighbors. What we do mean is, that the public mind may be enlighted so as to be better prepared to appreciate the character of medical science, and to distinguish false pretense and ignorant assurance from true knowledge and skill. In proportion as this is accomplished, the medical profession, so far as it faithfully represents the science, cannot fail to rise in public respect and confidence.

* And "we" do not fear even "smatterers in pathology and therapeutics," nor the "critical animadversions" of patients and their friends. Men prize life too highly. The more you teach them of *disease*, and the *uncertain action of remedies*, the more anxious will they be to employ medical aid in sickness, and, too, only the most honest and competent. B.

Popularizing the study of physiology is one of the means for the end under consideration. The more persons become acquainted with the machinery of the human organism, the less ready are they to trust the regulation of its disorders to incompetent hands, and the better able to discriminate between the incompetent and competent practitioner. With reference to these objects, as well as for other advantages belonging to the study, physiology should become an element of popular education. It should be taught by those properly qualified for the duty, not by irresponsible itinerants. In colleges, and all the higher seminaries of learning, the phenomena of life should hold as prominent a niche in the curriculum of instruction, certainly, as those of the inorganic world which give rise to the sciences of physics, chemistry, and astronomy. The intrinsic claims of the former are, to say the least, not less than those of the latter, aside from the additional interest arising from their personal relations to every individual.

We hope to see the time when every literary institution of any note will have its professor or teacher of Physiology, prepared to conduct the youthful inquirer for natural truth into every department of this wide and beautiful domain, unfolding all the variations and adaptions of organization throughout the vegetable and animal kingdoms, not limiting his researches to gross appearances, but introducing him to the new field for exploration which the microscope has revealed, and the not less extensive or interesting province developed by the chemical analyst. We trust and believe that the time will come when physiological science will be cultivated without reference to the practice of medicine; when, like chemistry, astronomy, and physics, it will have its zealous votaries among those who have no intention of becoming practicing physicians. Among other good results, it is easy to perceive that the effect would be to elevate the character of the medical profession, and secure for it a better appreciation by the public. Let every community have a certain number of persons, not physicians, who are thoroughly conversant with the structure and functions of the body, and what would become of the pretender to medical knowledge, whose ignorance of the very foundation of the science could not be concealed!

But in addition to making the science of physiology a popular pursuit, we are persuaded that much might be done by the profession to enhance public respect and confidence, if pains were taken to remove popular errors and prejudices. and to give the public a better insight into the true character and aims of medicine. Every practitioner is aware that singularly erroneous notions prevail extensively with respect to the medical science and art. For example, how very common is the impression that in all cases of disease recovery is anticipated mainly in consequence of the specific influence of remedies, nothing being known of the self-limited duration of certain affections, the importance of sanitary measures, etc. Many other equally absurd ideas, which are current with the public, might be cited. The roots of quackery are often found in these popular errors, and, were sustenance from this source to be cut off, many of the noxious weeds

would soon wither and die. The profession have hitherto done but little in the way of enlightening the intelligent popular mind on these subjects, and appealing to plain common sense for the validity of the claims of medical science. Is this the wiser course? Does not sound policy dictate the propriety of establishing different relations with the public on these matters by means of lectures, and publications designed to effect a more just appreciation of medical science? These questions bring us to a new and important topic. We had this topic specially in mind when we commenced writing, but in reaching it we have occupied so much space that we must leave it for the reflections of our readers. [*Buff. Med. Jour.*

Additional Observations on Phosphate of Lime in Depraved States.

BY. WARREN STONE, M. D.

The brief article published in the first number of the Register, on the use of the phosphate of lime in phthisis, and other depraved states of the system, has been published in some of the newspapers of the country, and I deem it proper to make some further remarks, lest disappointment should follow its indiscriminate use. The best way to secure for any remedy its proper place in therapeutics, is to determine its mode of action. It is considered, by the best observers, that in scrofulous affections there is undue acidity of the stomach; and, in the opinion of Dr. Thompson, the alkali of the salivary and pancreatic fluids being neutralized, fails to convert the carbon into oil. The blood is overcharged with albumen, and the albuminous exhalations being deficient in fat, elementary molecules are not formed capable of development into cells, and tubercular corpuscles are the result.—Whether this theory is correct or not, I have always found the good effects of the lime manifest where this acid tendency was manifest, and it has always appeared sufficient to correct it. My experience is, that the cod liver oil is much better tolerated by the stomach when taken with the phosphate of lime; and I feel confident that it is better appropriated. It is well understood that cod liver oil, to be useful must be digested, and furnish to the blood certain essential principles known to be deficient in phthisical cases. The phosphate of lime undoubtedly corrects the acidity, and experience goes strongly to favor the theory of Beneke, that it assists in the formation of healthy nuclei, capable of development into cells. When the oil is not tolerated, great benefit is derived from the use of the lime in connection with nitrogenous diet, or animal oil, in the form of diet. Several cases have been reported to me, where the good effects of the cod liver oil were not manifest until the lime was added. In urging strongly the use of the lime in connection with cod liver oil and animal diet, or animal oil, I do not wish to be understood as undervaluing other agents, which the various conditions of the fluids and nervous system often require. In this section, and in the whole valley of the Mississippi, there is a tendency to intermittents, engorgement of the spleen, and consequent deficiency of coloring matter in the blood, in which

the preparations of Iron are highly useful. The carbonate of iron, prussiate of iron, iodide of iron, and in decidedly intermittent cases, the citrate of quinine and iron, are highly useful. Exercise, particularly such as is calculated to increase the capacity of the chest, and favor free decarbonization of the blood, should not be overlooked.—The chief difficulty in private practice, in the use of the main remedies in phthisis, is in the want of confidence, and consequently, perseverance in their use. The patient derives temporary relief from some one of the thousand quack specifics, which merely disguise symptoms, but have no curative virtues. But few can comprehend that a transformation of tissues, dependent upon vice of nutrition, can only be overcome by long perseverance in a course calculated to correct it. Cod liver oil was used—and with a confidence equal to any modern physician—seventy-five years ago; but it went into disuse, probably from ignorance of its mode of action, and consequently, want of confidence in its use. The effect of the phosphate of lime in aid of the proper appropriation of the nutriment, is now manifest in certain cases of marasmus, not dependent upon organic disease, but equally destructive. The food, at times, appears to be digested, and, by the use of gentle means, stayed upon the bowels; but nutrition does not go on; there is no appropriation of food. In such cases, I have seen the lime, in conjunction with animal juices, and even with animal fat, produce the most happy effects. I will not pretend that the theory of the action of the lime is entirely correct, but I am sure I am not mistaken in its effects in favoring the healthy appropriation of nutriment, and even in favoring digestion.—*New Orleans Monthly Register*.

A Hint.

BY WM. MAXWELL WOOD, M. D., S. U. S. N.

No one may here oppose the popular objection that we would limit the facility for acquiring a knowledge of the profession of medicine to the few whom wealth would enable to attend expensive schools remote from their homes. Just the reverse; we would make the domain of medicine a true republic, and only ask of its members if they have the requisite knowledge; not, where they got it;—whether amid the halls, laboratories, and libraries of large cities, or, through the inspiration of genius, by the light of a pine torch in a forest cabin. Let every village have its medical school, if it may be thought expedient. Indeed it is a question whether, if medical education, or a knowledge of the principles of medicine were a part of general education, there would not be greater confidence in the profession, and more respect awarded to those who pursue it? An illiterate person might apply to a quackery juggler, or to any one less illiterate than himself, for information upon some abstruse point of chemistry, geology, mineralogy, or astronomy, but all having only the ordinary school knowledge of these sciences, would know that only those eminent for their learning would be likely to give the required informa-

tion. The same thing is seen when regularly instructed members of the profession apply for information to those of the profession having greater skill and learning than themselves. Many gentlemen, particularly in the Southern States, study medicine for the sake of mental occupation, with no intention of pursuing it as a business, and many who have been in the profession abandon it for other pursuits, yet these gentlemen, who are informed upon the nature of the profession, seek the best attainable medical advice for the relief of the ailments of themselves or their families. These facts lead very strongly to the inference that popular medical education would be fatal to the existence of quackery, and would leave the practice of medicine in the hands of those having the best natural and acquired gifts for its pursuit, and those so gifted would occupy a high and honored place in the confidence of an intelligent constituency.

Crying, Weeping and Sighing.

Dr. James Wardrop, an English medical author of eminence, in a recent treatise on Diseases of the Heart, says that among the means to influence the circulation and relieve the heart, not in a poetical though proper enough sense of "the spirits," are crying, weeping, sobbing, sighing, coughing, sneezing, hiccuping and vomiting; that which we suppose to be a mental, being in part a mechanical, or at least a physiological action.

Crying, which consist in a succession of violent and long-protracted expirations, will have the effect, by diminishing the circulation in the pulmonary arteries, of unloading the left heart and large arteries, of any surplus quantity of blood, caused by the action of the heart having been disturbed, whether by mental causes or from bodily pain; hence, the relief which those who suffer mental affliction or bodily pain, derive from crying—an act which is resorted to throughout the whole animal kingdom to relieve the heart from the hurtful effects of pain.

From the same cause arise the great languor to the circulation, and even the pernicious effects which have so often been known to follow the endurance of severe bodily pain without crying. A man who had no signs of great suffering during a military flogging, dropped down lifeless.

We see many examples of crying in hysterical women; and the screams which are made from fear or from mental agony, must have a powerful influence in unloading a congested heart.

Weeping, also, consists in irregular respiration, either with or without crying; is an effort or voluntary act made to facilitate the pulmonary circulation, and relieve that congestion in the heart which is caused by grief. Weeping, observes Haller, begins with a full inspiration, after which follow short expirations and inspirations. It is finished by a deep expiration, and immediately followed by a deep inspiration.

Hence arise the baneful effects, and the sensation of fullness, "the fullness of heart," and even of pain in the cardiac region, so frequently experienced by those who have not wept when the mind has been greatly agitated.

Sighing appears also to be a movement employed by nature to relieve the heart from congestion. The full inspirations which are made in sighing, by withdrawing the venous blood from the head, will assist in restoring the balance of the circulation, both within the head and chest, when it has been destroyed by some violent mental emotion or bodily pain.

Says Sheakspeare:

"He sighed a sigh so portentous and profound, as it
Did seem to shatter all his bulk and end his being."

National Eclectic Medical Convention.

The next meeting of this association is to be held at Rochester, New York, on the second Tuesday of May next. We hope the friends of Eclecticism will not fail to turn out largely at this Convention. We would invite the special attention of the gentlemen who are on the following committees, and hope each member will feel the responsibility of his position, and give a systematic attention to the preparation of a report upon his subject. By a special resolution each member of the Committee was intended to act in his individual capacity, and make a full report in case there should not be a conference of the Committee.

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL ECLECTIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

For the purpose of more rapidly extending the principles of Medical Reform, as set forth in the address of the first National Eclectic Medical Convention, as well as promoting the knowledge and dissemination of all improvements in Medical science, and adopting all measures which may be considered necessary to forward the cause of Medical Reform, the members of this Convention adopt the following Constitution :

ARTICLE I.—This Society shall be known by the name of the "National Eclectic Medical Association."

ART. II.—This Association shall be governed by the usu parlimentary rules, and shall have the power of adopting such measures, rules, and by-laws as may be deemed necessary and proper.

ART. III.—The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, two Recording Secretaries, two Corresponding Secretaries, and a Treasurer, who shall perform the usual duties appertaining to their respective offices, and who shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Association, for the general management of its affairs, and for the transaction of all business not delegated to special committees. These officers shall be elected by ballot, annually, at the first regular meeting of the Association.

Art. IV.—There shall also be committees of three, each, on the following branches of Medical Science, viz: on Theory and Practice; on Surgery; on Obstetrics; on Materia Medica, Medical Botany and Pharmacy; on Physiology; on Chemistry; and on Medical Statistics, who shall be appointed annually by the President of this Association, and who shall receive from the members of this Association, and from all friends of Medical Reform, on their respective branches, all interesting cases, discoveries, improvements, suggestions, and other useful matter in relation to Medical Reform, and who shall annually report the same to this Association.

Art. V.—The Association shall meet and hold their meetings annually at such time and place as may be appointed by a majority of the members present at any regular yearly meeting.

Art. VI.—No alteration, amendment, or addition can be made to this Constitution, except by a majority of two thirds of the members present at any regular yearly meeting.

A by-law was adopted to which we would call special attention, making it the duty of every member of the Association, *to report himself, either in person or otherwise, to the President at the annual meeting.* As it is highly important indeed, to procure the full reports of practice, contemplated by our Association, it is hoped that every member who has heretofore attended our meetings will make his report by letter or attend in person. It is also made the duty of every member to pay an annual contribution of one dollar, to defray the expenses of the society in publishing its documents, &c. The strict attention of the members to these two by-laws is required, and any one failing for two years to comply with these rules, is considered *no longer a member of the Association.*

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NATIONAL ECLECTIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

For 1852-53.

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"PRESERVATION OF THE TEETH.—John Clough, M. D., of Boston, who ranks high as a dental operator, has issued a small treatise on the teeth in which he says:

"Microscopical examinations show that the teeth of nearly every person are infected with numerous animal and vegetable parasites, which cannot be destroyed or removed by the use of ordinary tooth powders and washes. These conclusions are based upon the examination of the matter deposited upon the teeth and gums of more than forty individuals, selected from all classes of society, and in every variety of bodily condition; and in nearly every case, animal and vegetable parasites were discovered in great numbers." The author shows that persons who habitually brushed their teeth with soap, morning and evening were free from parasites, the undoubted cause of diseased conditions of the gums and denudation of the teeth."—*Boston M. and S. Jour.*

Chloride of Sodium as a substitute for Sulphate of Quinine in Intermittent Fever.—Our readers doubtless remember that this substance was proposed sometime ago, by Dr. Piorry, of Paris, as a remedy in intermittent fever, in evidence of the utility of which numerous cases were adduced by him. He administers it in doses of two tablespoonfuls once or twice daily, and asserts that it not only promptly arrests the paroxysms, but also exerts on the spleen as marked an influence as quinine doses.

Professor Herrick, of Rush Medical College, has reported in the September number of the N. W. Medical and Surgical Journal, the results of several trials made with it, which go to corroborate the success obtained by M. Piorry. Prof. Herrick suggests that it acts by preventing the destruction of the blood globules (which takes place to a considerable extent in this disease,) and at the same time by furnishing the materials for the manufacture of a fresh supply of this constituent. Chloride of Sodium is known to possess the property of preserving the blood globules; it is an alterative and tonic, and is also claimed to possess a specific influence in arresting the exacerbations of intermittents.

He prescribes it in the dose of three to four drachms twice daily in mucilage. After the fever is checked, he gives it in smaller doses, say ten grains, with the same quantity of carb. ferri, twice or three times daily, as a tonic or corrective of the secretions of the alimentary tube.—*Charleston Medical Journal and Review.*

Without any experience in regard to the febrifuge powers of the chloride of sodium, we can speak with great confidence of its efficacy, in habitual constipation. Of all the laxatives we have ever tried, we have found this to act most pleasantly, uniformly, and naturally.—Where the only object is to dislodge the contents of the lower bowels, it is all that physician or patient could desire. Dyspeptics, sedentary persons, the subjects of hemorrhoids, all, in a word, who are troubled with costiveness, will find the remedy a mild and sure eccoprotic, emptying the bowels freely without nausea, irritation, or exhaustion. We direct it to be taken before breakfast, from two to three drachms, dissolved in two or three tumblers of cold water.—The same dose continues to act from year to year, without diminution of effect.—*Western Jour. of Med. and Surgery.*

Transfusion of Blood.—A successful operation for transfusion of blood, was recently performed, according to the *Salut Public*, at Lyons. A lady, 27 years of age, under the effects of a terrible hemorrhage, exhibited all the characteristics of approaching death, which succeeded the loss of blood. Dr. Delorme suggested the idea of transfusion of blood. The remedy was regarded as hazardous, but under the desperate circumstances of the case, justifiable; and it was adopted. Dr. Degranges, surgeon at the Hotel Dieu, undertook the operation; and an officer of the institution offered to furnish from his own veins the requisite blood. A syringe was prepared to receive the blood to be injected into the veins of the dying woman.

The syringe, being filled with about 200 *grammes* of the borrowed blood was plunged into warm water, of a temperature somewhat above of that of the blood in circulation. A vein in the arm of the patient was chosen as the most convenient for receiving the injection. This vein having been opened, a fine tube was introduced, adapted to the syringe, and through this the vivifying fluid was carefully forced into the exhausted blood-vessels of the now senseless woman. Almost immediately she began to revive, feeling, as she afterwards described it, an agreeable warmth distributed throughout her body. Consciousness soon returned, and in the course of an hour or two there was so lively and intense a reaction as to excite considerable anxiety among the medical attendants. The patient, however, continued to improve, and at the last accounts—the 1st of November—the most confident hopes were entertained that the experiment would be completely successful.—*Exchange.*

Elements of Success.—An extract from Conrad Baker's Valedictory Address:

"Courtesy, punctuality, accuracy and dispatch, are the powers that ensure success. There are those who are perpetually snarling or sneering at some one in the profession whom they, for some undefinable cause, dislike, without being precisely able to define why or wherefore. It is enough that they are real or imaginary obstacles to their own full success. Such physicians lead a wretched life, since it is impossible for them ever to be comfortable, or hold the position in society which they are determined to have, by thus fighting thro' life. Another, disregarding the business habits of every one else, and being stubbornly bent on making the world conform to his individual views of the way, the manner and the time for doing things, will surely find himself neglected—while he comforts himself with the false idea that he has been *unfortunate*. Accuracy is an essential element of success, the true value of which is so uniformly admitted, that it is quite unnecessary to do more than refer to it. But the last requisite to make a successful physician, is *dispatch*. Incessant activity, without being in a reprehensible haste, is also indispensable to success. Some practitioners, of eminent qualifications, are so insufferably fatiguing to their patients by the extreme minuteness of their questions, and the intolerable length of their visits, all with the very best of intentions—that those who would like to be their patrons are obliged to cut loose from them. A practitioner is supposed to study at home; and when introduced to the sick-room, the ability to bring his knowledge to bear upon the case at once, is the secret of gaining and keeping business. It will not answer to examine and percuss, listen to arterial pulsations, and split hairs, till the patient becomes impatient for the remedy. Dispatch is virtue in a physician."

Reformer.—A person known as a "Visionary," then as a "Quack," then as a "Benefactor."

A SUBSTITUTE FOR MERCURY IN SYPHILITIC DISEASES.—M. E. ROBIN has read a paper before the Academy of Sciences of Paris, with the following title :—"On Certain new Agents calculated as Substitutes for Mercury when used as an Anti-syphilitic Remedy." In former papers, M. Robin has maintained these propositions :—"Mercurial preparations do not act in a peculiar manner when administered in Syphilitic diseases ; they merely combine with the virus and change it into a new or inert compound. Now there are a great many substances which form analogous combinations with organized matter, which substances probably have, like mercury, anti-syphilitic virtues; and it will be found that the agents of this class, which have thus been successfully employed, belong to the antiseptic division of remedies which act by combining with the noxious principles. In this manner we can understand whence arise the anti-syphilitic properties of arsenical, gold, silver, steel, and antimonial preparations. Hence arises the likelihood of success, if attempts be made to use such organic substances as the bichromate of potash, or sesquichloride of iron, instead of mercurials."

M. Robin, induced Dr. Vicenti, of Paris, to try a few experiments with the bichromate of potash to combat syphilis ; the salt was employed in three cases with much success, and of these, one was marked by very severe secondary symptoms. Fifteen grains of bichromate were divided into eighty pills, with extract of gentian. One of these was taken night and morning. They agreed pretty well with the stomach, though some opium was necessary to prevent nausea and vomiting. The patient took 240 pills in the space of about three months, and was then quite well of a very intense attack of iritis, accompanied by other syphilitic symptoms, which had almost blinded him. The patient had had an indurate chancre, and had never taken any mercury.—*London Lancet.*

The Itch cured in two hours.—Dr. Bazin, Physician of the Hospital of Saint Louis, of Paris, introduced not long ago, a notable improvement in the treatment of the itch, since he succeeded in curing the disease in *two days* by general frictions with the sulphur ointment. Dr. Hardy, who suceeeded Dr. Bazin in the Scabies wards of the same hospital, has, however, considerably curtailed this already short time; he cures his patients in *two hours.* The method is described as follows:

Patients are no longer admitted *into* the house for the treatment of the itch, as two hours suffice to render contagion impossible and the recovery almost certain. The patient is put into a warm bath, and rubbed for an hour with yellow soap; he then passes into a clean bath, where he continues to cleanse his skin for another hour. After leaving this bath he is taken to a particular room fitted for the purpose, and, with the aid of one of his fellow-sufferers, he is rubbed all over for half an hour with the following ointment: Axunge* eight parts, flour of sulphur two parts, carbonate of potash one part. After this friction, the patient is examined and sent away cured,

though sometimes pretty numerous vesicles on the hand and elsewhere, remain unaltered. Dr. Hardy states that out of one hundred cases he has hardly had two or three relapses. The number of itch patients had considerably diminished, as none are now turned away for want of room; and the disease has thus spread with much less rapidity.—*London Lancet.*

*Hog's Lard.

EDITORIAL.

Physical Science of the Human Body.

For general reading.—Continued from page 169.

The subject of the *chemical elements* of the Human Body was under review. Carbon, as a material used in constructing the "house we live in," has been considered. Others will be taken up, as nearly as may be, in a natural order.

2. Oxygen.—This substance is the *paradox* among chemical elements. It is indispensable to all vital activity, and yet most mysterious in its actions and effects. In a *quiescent* state, it forms part of the solid muscle, which, if unattacked by outside chemical agents, would endure as long as the granite rocks; and yet, strange to say, it is another portion of the same element, in an *active* state, which constitutes the outside chemical agent by whose action the muscle is decomposed, and made one of the most shortlived of organic compounds. Again, *Oxygen is indispensable to all manifestation of animal or vegetable life, and yet the process by which it brings out all such manifestations, is purely one of* decay *and* dissolution! These apparent contradictions will be better reconciled as we proceed.

Oxygen, in its uncombined state, is a gas. Like most gases, it is destitute of the slightest degree of color, taste, or smell. Hence it is invisible, and inappreciable by any of the senses. We study it only in its actions when brought in contact with other bodies, gaseous, liquid or solid, and by such delicate operations as are practicable in the laboratory. Thus, it has been weighed, and found to be a trifle heavier than atmospheric air. For instance, 100 cubic feet of atmospheric air weigh almost exactly 10 lbs. The same bulk of Oxygen gas would weigh a little more than 11 lbs.

DISCRIMINATION.—Oxygen gas constitutes 21 parts in 100 of the air we breathe. It was when first discovered called *vital air*. It also constitutes eight ninths, by weight, of water. In every nine pounds of water, there are eight pounds of this gas,—very much condensed of course, because it has taken on the fluid state. But the principle by which we shall best distinguish it from all other substances, is this: Oxygen is the *great agent of Decay*. Among the elementary and compound atoms of bodies, it plays "Apollyon"—the Destroyer!

Expose under certain circumstances the pure metals, Iron, Lead, Copper, Potassium, Sodium, or Calcium, to its action, and at once they are corroded, eaten, consumed by the Destroyer, and crumble away in dust. This process we call *rusting* or *oxidation*; and it is, in fact, a true *combustion*, which, as in all other instances, produces heat. Iron, Lead, &c., are FUEL in the jaws of this devouring element, as well as wood or coal. They burn, but not quite so conveniently, and hence only are not used for "boiling the kettle," and broiling our steak. When Lead comes into use as fuel, cooks will need to be very careful not to get the *ashes* in the pudding! One great tendency of Oxygen is to crumble solids—to reduce them to "dust." It is, in this world, the "worm that dieth not," and the traces of its silent march, aided by water, winds, heat, and carbonic acid, are seen in the millions of acres of soil—*dust*—into which it has after long ages powdered down the solid rocks of the primeval world.—And, indeed, Oxygen produces similar effects upon the substance of plants and animals. These it consumes silently, unrelentingly, day by day, while they are growing, so that they die daily and hourly, even in the midst of life; and more especially after general death of any organized body, this element at once seizes upon the fallen fabric, and executes the mandate, "unto dust shalt thou return."

In the human body, especially, the operation of this agent is certain, rapid, effective. Through the lungs and skin it is ever, from the first to the last hour of existence, pouring into our bodies. Its atoms fly swiftly through the pores in these organs, as swallows dart into the swallow-holes in a barn; and when the former have entered, they flit about in every part of the organism, with as much ease as the latter explore every nook in the building, for membranes and flesh are full of open pores, and the busy Destroyer has an insatiable appetite.

Suppose for five minutes a transparent living human body, and that you and I, Reader, with *microscopes* for spectacles, stood looking through it. For a moment we might be pleased to watch the giant-

like gathering-up of a contracting muscle, or the astonishing play of a thousand streamlets of rich red blood, life's grand hydraulics, darting out from the heart to every part of the body; but soon we look more narrowly, and discover a still more wondrous spectacle. There an atom drops,—and there another. One particle falls from the brain into the current of blood, like a pebble into a swift stream; another from this membrane, and another from that, falls into the same blood and is swept along by it. But look now!—a whole shower of atoms, like leaves from a tree in autumn, rattle down from the brain, and then a shower from a distant muscle that gathers itself up as if for work, and then another still, until the whole man is in action, and the downward rush of dislodged atoms makes one afraid that the body is dissolving, and life must cease! The man has had a *rushing thought* that has thrown his whole frame into agitation; and Oxygen, everywhere present, has seized upon the perturbed atoms, and whirled them out of the living fabric, in the commotion.

This is no fancy picture, but sober fact. Decomposition of living bodies is incessantly going on, produced by the agent above referred to. We say that Oxygen *supports* combustion and life, (and probably the two are nearer one than we have generally supposed,) merely because it has this incessant tendency to combine with and decompose other substances, and because when this decomposition takes place in certain bodies, under certain circumstances, HEAT, or LIFE, or BOTH, must necessarily be manifested.

Nearly *one half*, by weight, of the entire crust of the earth is Oxygen. But this gives us only a feeble idea of the importance of this gas. Besides the large proportion found in the air, water, and earth, it constitutes much more than one half of living vegetables and animals. Thus, assuming only *seven eighths* of the living human body to be water, we have 140 lbs. of that fluid in a man or woman weighing 160 lbs. Now *eight ninths* of this, or fully 124 lbs., is pure Oxygen. Out of 20 lbs. of solids we may reasonably suppose at least 6 lbs. more of this gas, thus making 130 lbs. out of 160, or more than *three fourths* of the entire living body!

This is the substance without the presence of which, in a free state, Life could not be sustained for a moment; and yet, without its presence, in the same state, Death could never occur. But this is no paradox in reality, when we remember that Life is not an entity —a thing *per se*—but only a manifestation, or result, of certain acting forces and the changes they produce. A stream of Oxygen gas from the North pole of the earth, and a stream of Hydrogen gas

from the South, meet over the equator: a spark of electricity from above darts through the mixture, and, the atmosphere being absent, a bright flame rises, but only at the point of meeting. So with Life. Many converging streams meet at a point, within the human body, —the "vital spark" falls on the mixture, and at the point of meeting flames up the brilliant result—Life.

The symbol of Oxygen is O.

3. Carbonic Acid.—When coal, wood, or any substance containing Carbon, is brought to a very high heat in the presence of Oxygen, combustion, that is *chemical union*, ensues. The two materials combine; *heat, light, motion, and electricity* are evolved during the process; and the product is another colorless gas, which is Carbonic Acid. This gas is proved to be an acid by its pungent taste, its effect in changing a vegetable blue color to red, and by its combining with alkalis and other oxides forming some of the class of compounds called salts. The diamond being nearly pure Carbon, burns up, producing this acid gas.

In chemical union, bodies combine only in certain fixed proportions, or given weights. Thus, 1 lb. of Hydrogen always combines with 8 lbs. of Oxygen, or with twice that weight. So, too, with 14 lbs. of Nitrogen, 8, or 16, or 24, or 32, or 40 lbs. of Oxygen combine, but no quantities between these. The lowest weights in which bodies unite are termed their combining numbers, or *equivalents*. I shall express these in the nearest round number, although the equivalent commonly contains a fraction.

The equivalent of Oxygen is 8, that of Carbon, 6.

Now in the formation of Carbonic Acid, we find one equivalent of Carbon united with two of Oxygen. Hence the symbol for this gas is CO_2.

Experiment.—Place in a vessel, open at the top, four gallons of water. Invert in this a glass vessel, through which you could watch the process, holding also four gallons. Let this vessel be emptied of air and filled with CO_2, and open only into the water below. Close the space between the sides of the two vessels about the level of the water so that nothing passing into it will escape into the air. The glass vessel will gradually settle, and finally sink wholly into the water. This proves that it has been emptied of the gas; and consequently, of necessity, that the gas has been absorbed by, or *dissolved in*, the water. This fluid, in fact, dissolves a little more than its own bulk of Carbonic Acid gas,—about 106 parts for every 100.

The property possessed by water of dissolving into itself this and other gases, plays a very important part in the processes of life.—Thus, Oxygen gas passes into the pores of the skin, and through the thickness of its dry portion, or epidermis, by the simple tendency of gases to expand, and occupy every space unfilled by other matters. But at the inner surface of the epidermis, this gas meets with the fluid blood, into which it is dissolved, and forthwith sweeps off in the circulation, thus making room for the entrance of more gas through the skin, and so on continually. So, too, pints of air, containing of course its Oxygen, rush into the lungs at every breath, and fill up the minutest air-passages and air-cells. Here it lies upon moist membranes, bathed on their opposite side by the Blood. The water of the membrane dissolves into itself the gas, passes it through, and into the blood, which hurries it off, and here again makes room for more. But at the same time the Carbonic Acid gas in the blood is passed in its dissolved state through the membrane of the lungs in the opposite direction, and being set free into the air in the lungs, is thrown out by expiration, and passes off, leaving room to continue the process. This gas also escapes outward by the skin.

But what now are the causes which determine the constant inward direction of the Oxygen, and outward direction of the Carbonic Acid? They are these. Oxygen is constantly being used in the system.—It appears there in compounds of various kinds, Carbonic Acid being one of the most important, and in these states is thrown out of the body. The effect is as if a perpetual *vacuum* of Oxygen were produced in the body, which the outside gas rushes in to supply. On the other hand a large amount of Carbonic Acid being constantly generated, within the body, and the air outside containing much less of it, there is a constant outward current of this gas through the skin and lungs, diffusing it in the atmosphere and thus relieving the system of its presence. We here see how beautifully the simplest *physical laws* are made to explain one of the most important and intricate of the vital functions,—Respiration.

Carbonic Acid extinguishes flame, and, even when no more than *one ninth* part is present in the air, destroys animal life. Laborers descending into wells, incautious or ignorant families sleeping in tight, coal-warmed rooms, and unlucky dogs held for the edification of philosophical minds over the gas-fuming "Grotto del Cane" in Italy, have realized its fatal effects when repentance came too late for safety. CO_2 may be called *deadly air*. More anon. R.

The Female Medical Movement.

The modern circle of Lucina is fast increasing in numbers, talent, and influence. It promises fair to throw off the shackles of ignorance and prejudice, which have so extensively prevented the female sex from understanding the human organism, and participating in the god-like duties of the healing art. A few genuine workers who have enlisted in the cause of female medical education, are thus accomplishing more for their sex than the conventions and discussions of hundreds of others upon woman's rights, etc.

Mrs. Sarah J. Hale, Editor of Godey's Lady's Book, as we have had occasion to notice before, is giving her valuable influence for this cause which we have encouraged for a considerable length of time.

Mrs. Hale has favored us with a copy of her "Appeal to American Christians on behalf of the Ladies' Medical Missionary Society," a society recently organized in Philadelphia, for giving encouragement and aid to females who are engaged in medical studies. Her appeal has a good claim to the usual decided good sense which characterizes her productions in general. It gladdens us much to see such a head and such a heart enlisted among the first in this "peaceful agitation" of principles of truth and justice. From the relations we have held to the medical institution which has received and educated a larger number of females than any other in our country, from the great change of public sentiment and feeling as expressed throughout our whole land in reference to the medical education of ladies, from the successful induction of those who are leading the van, and from our innate convictions, we are fully satisfied of the propriety of the movement.

It is eminently fortunate for the future interests of the movement, that it has enlisted already so many ladies of decided energy, respectability and talent. With such leading lights as Miss Blackwell, and a few other stars fast increasing in brightness, the cause is safe. The influence of an Aspasia or Alais within their ranks cannot stay their career, and conservatism and bigotry without, little know how vain it is to interpose. It is equally vain for professional selfishness and scandal to denounce them. When an edict has gone forth having such ties in the truest and noblest sentiments of human nature, a civilized, an enlightened, and christian public will sustain it.

Of one thing we are a little surprised, and that is, that Mrs. Hale should seemingly give her preference and influence to medical schools which admit ladies only. Why is this? Is not the influence of a mix-

ed class mutually salutary in a high degree? Has not this been admitted in every instance where ladies have been admitted to classes of gentlemen? It has been so in Geneva, Cleveland, and Cincinnati, and how manifest has it been in C. M. College. Not one member, either male or female, of the highly respectable classes that have gathered in this institution for the last four or five sessions, will deny that the influence of the opposite sex has been emulative, ennobling and salutary. We can hardly presume that Mrs. H., or the other advocates of female medical colleges, would in all cases shut ladies in academies, seminaries, and colleges exclusively female, for their literary training. Neither would they wish to see those who qualify themselves for professional duties inferior in their attainments, their dignity, and usefulness. Every female doctor, every "*sage femme*" if we are to have such, should be every way the best fitted by nature, education, and association, for practice and consultation with the sterner sex. Time will show that those educated in schools exclusively female will not go out the best prepared for their duties. No lady in our country is obliged like Agnodice, the celebrated Athenian virgin, to disguise her sex to learn and practice the healing art in the present day. Those who are to become the daughters of Æsculapias, should be encouraged to enter his temple through the frequented gates, and thus derive assistance and stimulus from their "professional brethren." We intended saying more in relation to this subject, but limited space forbids. L. C. D.

Notices of Books and Exchanges.

Elements of Chemistry. By THOMAS GRAHAM, F. R. S. *Second American, from an entirely revised and greatly enlarged English Edition. Edited with notes, by* ROBERT BRIDGES, M. D., Professor of Chemistry in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy &c. Philadelphia : Blanchard and Lea. 1852. (From the publishers.)

Part 1st of this valuable work has been received, and our acknowledgements are due to both editor and publishers for thus placing in the hands of the public an improved edition of a book so highly prized. It unquestionably stands first among works upon Elementary Chemistry: embracing, as it does, an incredible amount of chemical statistics, within narrow limits. Here we have brought together in one volume, with great care and discrimination, whatever the learner otherwise could find only by consulting many different works. Its comprehensiveness within such limits is its most valuable characteristic. A. K. E.

barren pedantry which is observed in some of its contemporaries, with which we hope it compares favorably in its circulation.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICAL REFORM, for the people and the profession. Edited by H. M. Sweet, M. D., New York, at $1 00 a year. This has not yet completed its first volume, and from the irregular manner in which it has reached us, we have been led to fear that its birth may have been premature. The Journal presents a good appearance, and if sustained will prove an important auxiliary in the dissemination of useful medical knowledge.

Monthly Medical Abstract.

Marine Hospitals.—The number of Seamen admitted to the Marine Hospitals during the past year was 8600 and the number relieved 9399. The amount paid for boarding and nursing was $136,913, and for medical service $13,445.

Dislocation of the vertebra of the neck.—Two cases of dislocation of the Cervical vertebra followed with recovery, are reported by D. Gilbert, M. D., in the April number of the Medical Examiner.

Diabetes Insipidus.—This disease is very common in California. It is supposed to be caused by drinking river water, the use of improper food, and standing much in water in a stooping posture raising weights. The disease seems to yield speedily to a strict regimen in diet, one or two portions of alteratives, and mild cathartics followed by demulcents, copavia and opiates, with small doses of tincture of spanish flies. Change of climate favors a return to health.

An Anomaly.—A physician in Michigan recently removed an incisor tooth from the nose of a lady which she had supposed to be a polypus.

Two cases of death, occurring under the use of chloroform, have been recently reported. One, a man aged 20, in the Marine Hospital, Mass., while under its influence for the removal of a toe nail; the other a lady in Norwalk, Conn., who inhaled it for the purpose of having a tooth extracted.

A Large Heart.—J. P. L., of Griggsville, Pike co., Ill., in a communication dated March 1st, says, "On Saturday last, a *post mortem* examination was made of the body of the son of Dr. Sanford Bells, of Springfield, Ill., by Drs. Richardson, Helm, and Lord, revealing a phenomenon perhaps unprecedented in pathological appearances. The young man had been in comparatively feeble health from infancy, and showed symptoms of disease of his heart, as predicted by his physicians. It is well known that the usual weight of the human heart is from seven to nine ounces. In the case of this young man it weighed *three and a half pounds*. His age was nineteen." Was this a case of hypertrophy without complication, or accompanied with dilatation or contraction of the cavities, or diseased valves? May we not have the history of the case more in detail?

Small-Pox prevails in several towns in New England, New York, and Ohio.

Tape-Worm.—An Irish girl, at Spafford Spa, Conn., a little time since, was taken with severe distress at the pit of the stomach and retching. In a few hours' time she drew from her throat and mouth forty feet of tape worm. Her previous health had been good—suffers since from pain in her right side and epigastrium, health otherwise good.

The liquor extracted from common pumpkin seeds as a remedy for tape worm is gaining advocates. Among other cases reported confirming previous statements of its utility, is that of Rev. Mr. Buel, laboring at the Piræus, under the patronage of the American Board of Baptist Missions; shortly after a draught of the freshly-prepared orgeat of pumpkin seeds, he expelled twenty feet of a tape-worm.

Amputation of upper jaws.—Dr. H. H. Smith, Surgeon to the St. Joseph Hospital, Philadelphia, on the 25th of Feb., removed the left half of the upper jaw of a man aged 48, suffering from a malignant tumor of the antrum. Dr. Pancost recently removed a large portion of the right side of the upper jaw of a young lady from Maryland. In this case an ingenious dentist has already supplied the loss with an artificial jaw and palate, since which the patient is able to articulate distinctly, and to swallow fluids without their passing through the nose.

Dr. W. B. Thompson of the Emigrants Hospital, Wards Island, reports the death of a girl aged 6 years, caused by the external application of an infusion of the Coculus Indicus for scald head, infected with vermin.

An Abstract of the last Census.—The total population of the United States on the first day of June, 1850, was 23,257,082, being an increase from the first of June, 1840, of 6,176,848, and an actual increase per cent of 36.18.

The whole number of deaths during the year 1850, was 320,164, the ratio being as 1 to 72.6 of the living population, or as 10 to each 726 of the population. This rate of mortality is so much less than that of Europe, that it must be taken with some degree of allowance.

The number of deaths in Maine, was 7,545, or 1 to 77.29. In Vermont the ratio is as 1 to 100.13; while in Massachusetts it is as 1 to 51.23, showing the rate of mortality to be almost twice as great in Massachusetts as in Vermont. The highest rate of mortality is in Louisiana, where the deaths are as 1 to 42.85 inhabitants; the lowest is in Oregon, where it is as 1 to 282.82.

Some facts developed by the census seem to show New Mexico to be one of the healthiest countries on the globe. Out of a population of some 61,922 no less than 40 persons are over 100 years of age, 80 are over 90 years, and 310 over 80 years of age. In Valencia county, Candelajo Agular, a farmer, was 130 years old when the census was taken; Jose Ortado was 110; Hosa Billejos, 110; Rosa Montallo, 107; Maria J. Pacheco, 103. The males attain a greater age than the females; for of the 314 over 80, 117 are males and 107 females.

From an interesting statistical digest just published, it appears that the human family numbers 700,000,000, and its annual loss by death is 18,000,000, which produces 624,400 tons of animal matter, which, in turn, generates by decomposition 9,000,000,000,000 cubic feet of gases, which are cleared away from the atmosphere by vegetable matter decomposing and assimilating them for their own uses.

Spiritual Communications.—Samuel Taylor, writing for the Boston Medical & Surgical Journal, expresses the opinion that "*detached vital electricity*" is the only agent concerned in moving the hands of the "writing mediums." He says "the term 'mind' is only a name for that certain something which passes, in a continuous current from the brain to the hand, (in the common act of writing,) and makes it write. In this case a reflex current is continuously running back to the brain, to convey to it the consciousness of the performance of the act by the hand. In the case of the so-called spiritual writings, although the act may really have originated in the individual's own brain, and a current passed to the hand, directing the performance of certain acts or motions, yet no current returns to convey an idea of the performance of such acts by the hand. The *detached vital electricity* of one individual will operate on the physical system of another. This seems to be exemplified by the experiment of writing the age of Mr. Temple, when in the presence of others who knew it. * * * That one person should be able to act upon another in this way, is not perhaps more unaccountable than the powers said to be possessed by the Electrical Eel."

Iodine Injections into the Peritoneum in Ascites, (*Abdominal Dropsy.*) M. Bonnet has published in the *Gazette Medicale de Paris* an account of thirteen cases of Ascites, wherein he has used injections of Iodine, (Tinc. of Iodine, one ounce; Iodide of Potassium, one drachm; water, seven ounces.) into the cavity of the peritoneum. In eleven of these cases, this treatment was entirely successful. In the two remaining cases, no unpleasant symptoms remained, except the persistence of the ascites. Though the febrile reaction never ran high, the injections were in general followed by tension, and some heat of the abdomen, a little tympanitis, and tenderness on pressure. In one case there was intense inflammation of the peritoneum. The fluid was generally left four or five minutes; and it has ever happened that from difficulty of evacuating it, one fourth, one half, or even the whole was left without producing unpleasant symptoms: Of course the treatment will only apply in cases of idiopathic affection of the peritoneum unconnected with organic disease. The injection must never contain more than a sixth or seventh part of iodine.

L. C. D.

Miscellany.

CONSUMPTION AND GOODNESS.—Dr. T. Thompson, of London, in one of his lectures on Diseases of the Chest, utters the following truthful sentiments:

"We may observe that, in any family, the members in whom the

hereditary tendency is most apt to betray itself, are commonly those characterized by refinement of feeling and delicacy of sentiment.—Selfishness and hardness of character—an adaptation for jostling with the world—seem to indicate firmness of structure, and less frequently present themselves in persons susceptible of this form of disease. The common expression, 'Too good to live,' may so far have a foundation, and the poet may be justified in his exclamation,

> 'The good die soon,
> Whilst those whose hearts are dry as summer dust
> Burn to the socket.' "

The case of those who are thus born to *die or suffer* is surely a sad one. We can almost think in the instance of some, that the former fate were preferable to the latter, in view of the amount such can suffer. But the most sensitive and fragile may, by a proper hygienic course pursued from earliest infancy, be "hardened" and fitted to endure; and while they lose their morbid impressibility, their health must at the same time improve, thus doubly fitting them for life.—Parents, either or both of whom are afflicted with transmissible diseases, should think of this, and act accordingly.

Vital Statistics.—M. Casper, of Berlin, furnishes the following Statistics of the number of persons out of *one hundred* in each of several vocations, who lived more than 70 years; viz: "Divines, 42; agriculturists, 40; merchants, and persons holding the higher offices, 35; soldiers, and persons holding situations of a humble description, 32; barristers, 29; cultivators of any of the fine arts, 27; professors and teachers, 27; and *medical men* 24."

Notable Case.—A man here was engaged in lifting by a lever; his feet gave way and let him down upon his left shoulder, causing dislocation of the head of the humerus into the axilla (armpit.) His brother and a bystander attempted to reduce it, but without success.

The arm gave him considerable pain after the attempt, which caused him to rest the same (on the elbow) upon his lower flexed limb.—While doing so a thought occurred to him that downward pressure might avail him something. He accordingly made pressure *downward* and *inward*, and the dislocation was easily reduced without any other assistance.

Avoca, N. Y. DR. W. A. WALLACE.

Died of Inanition—The British American Medical and Physical Journal, published at Montreal. This Journal was one of the first in character and ability among the medical periodicals of our continent. It expired not for want of *patrons*, but of *pay*. Either the Allopathic flock are getting tired of their shepherds, or prove very ungrateful to them; or else, which is as likely, this is but another instance of the *deep-rooted faith* people everywhere seem to have in the principle that *Science*, like the *cat*, is possessed of "nine lives,"—a faith which consoles them over the starvation of the Editor and Printer with the happy reflection that "Truth is mighty and *must* prevail!"

Dont Despair.—An infant daughter of a Mr. Taylor, of South Boston was relieved by an emetic of 23 *agate buttons*, of the size of half a dime, which she had swallowed! At last accounts she was nearly recovered.

Valuable Member of Society.—The Panama Echo announces the death of Senor Louis Durand, of that city, aged ninety years.—He had a family of over one hundred children. How many wives had he? That is what sensible men, as well as physiologists, want to know. But probably *officious* modesty will not allow this fact to be removed from under her vail.

The "vexed question."—A correspondent of the Chicago Tribune tells of a little girl ten years of age, whose only subsistence since infancy has been sugar and milk—some obstruction or disease of her throat having led her always to refuse anything more substantial.—She is stated to be as large as children usually of her age, and as healthy, bright and active as those whose food would be considered more invigorating. [*Exch. Paper.*

Who shall tell us what to eat?—or what is the proper food for human beings? "Not milk and sugar, surely," says my radical friend *Cabbage*. Yet this little girl thrives on that diet. And after all, so much of a Jew am I, that not all the *Christian* practices of the day could convince me that pork, and I may add, pastry and coffee, are healthful diet,—that such stuff was ever designed for human stomachs, or, what is more, that any man, woman or child, under any circumstances, can subsist on these and like articles, and not suffer therefrom serious consequences which might be avoided by their disuse. We must have faith in the laws of the universe. Let us not feel that *Causes* are idlers or ciphers, but that they invariably give birth to a family of *effects*, which always take possession by right of *heirship*, of the living habitation once surrendered to their ancestry!

Alabama Acid Springs.—In one of the numbers of Brande's Quarterly Journal, (English,) for 1833, we find the following notice.

"This acid, (the sulphuric,) has been found to form a spring or springs, near the *Erie Canal*, and arises in large quantities, both in a diluted and concentrated state. The low hillock, from which it arises, consists of ash-colored alluvion, containing an immense quantity of exceedingly minute grains of iron pyrites. The acid turns to charcoal, whatever it reaches on the surface. The strength of the acid increases in dry weather. A stream of water which flows from one spring, will constantly redden violets, and coagulate milk. It is conjectured, that the acid is produced by the decomposition of pyrites in the soil."

These springs are in Genesee Co. They are now well known and much resorted to by those who have faith in the virtues of mineral waters.

Conventions.—The Friends of Medical Progression will not forget the meeting in Convention of the National Eclectic Medical As-

sociation, which is to take place in Rochester, on the second Tuesday in May. We have been requested by the President of the Niagara and Erie Co. Eclectic Medical Society, to give notice that a meeting of that Society will take place in Lockport, on the 1st Tuesday in May, at 10 o'clock A. M., just one week previous to the sitting of the National Convention, for the appointing of Delegates, and the transaction of other needful business. Members of that Society will please to bear this in mind.

CHAMPION OF MAN-MIDWIFERY.—"A. K. Gardner, M. D., of New York, lately gave a lecture in that city, intended in part to show the *past inefficiency and present* ALLEGED (!) *incapacity of females in the practice of Obstetrics.*" So says the Boston Med. Journal,—all but the italicising. Natural, very! But does A. K. Gardner, M. D., know that he is talking about the science of Mid-wife-ry? Had he not better first show by what right he broaches such a subject? For shame!

But the Editor of the above named Journal goes on to say "Of the great importance of anœsthesia in labor he bears testimony, and emphatically advances the belief that *before this generation has passed away*, labor will be '*rendered a painless and every-day occurrence*'." One can hardly repress a smile at the sanguine expectations of the Dr., which lead him to predict that labor will so soon become an "every-day occurrence!" Really the Dr. is getting ultra. Where is the "safety committee?" But in anticipating that labor is to become a "painless" process by the grace of Ether and Chloroform, we think the Dr. has reckoned without his host. How many females will men-mid-*wives* induce to plunge themselves into utter stupidity, and surrender the use of their own reason, prudence, self-care, and even modesty, in the critical and important hour of parturition? But such is the conservative's Pyramid of Progress: first, bad habits and ignorance allowed; then, weakness and instrumental labor necessitated; and then as the crowning-point of the structure, oblivion, so that if art and evil prevail, the victim may pass out of the world in blissful ignorance of the fact! Fortunately Water and Hygiene, the greatest blessings of the parturient chamber, have got the start of such nonsense. *Sitz-baths, wet bandages*, and a *human diet*, are in the field, and they will soon vote Dr. G.'s "anœsthesia" in cases of ordinary labor, a superlative fudge.

ERRATA.—In Dr. Skellinger's article, in our last No., the word *dan-hydriatic* should have been *pan-hydriatic*; and "6 ounces," near its close, was intended to be "60 ounces." In passing, it may be well to say that Prof. O. Davis disclaims the employment of the misnomer, "powerless pains." He admits such a division of obstetrical science as will include *Powerless Labor*.

"BLOW HOT, AND BLOW COLD."—The Am. Jour. of Med. Reform, in its No. 8, gives *us* one or two pricks of the scalpel, and then turns about and puts plaster on all the wounds! What have we done? We have meant no harm. We do not care to occupy so large a space between anybody, and his sunshine. Try us patiently, friends.

R.

ECLECTIC

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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

The Character of the Physician.

A Valedictory Lecture to the Class of C. M. College, Delivered February 19, 1852.

BY PROF. P. C. DOLLEY.

Ladies and Gentlemen :—Our meeting to-day, unlike those of the former days of the session, when each was but a means and a step to another—is one expressly appointed as a meeting for separation—one at which we can express mutual congratulations for the past—mutual sympathy and kindly feeling for the present,—and offer from the full heart within, a universe of good wishes for the future.

The associations of the past four months have been those of no ordinary character. No jarrings have disturbed us—no discords have been awakened—no personal jealousies have been engendered—no want of interest has been seen or felt—no few have lagged behind while others have striven ; but on the contrary a noble ambition has seemed to actuate each and every member of the class, and awakened them to noble energies in the lectures and the private room, for the attainment of all that was attainable, and the accomplishment of every imposed task.—We thank you that we can thus speak of you, and bear testimony of your exalted principles.

The meetings for these purposes are now at an end; and the most of you are to go to your homes, and to the duties that belong to your vocation. As you go out to mingle in the cares, responsibilities, and perchance the pleasures of life, we cannot withhold an expression of

our most earnest wishes for your prosperity and success,—nor do we deem such an expression at all unsuited to the present occasion.

But in wishing you *success*, we mean it not as an empty sound calculated to flatter the ear while in each others' presence, but we attach to the word a definite meaning, a distinct idea of the result of a certain course of thought, and action. If we look about upon any community of *physicians*, we shall find that although they are engaged in the same kind of labor and ostensibly for the same purpose—that there is the greatest diversity of interests, and objects aimed at, and that they make their common labors means, for the successful attainment of far different ends. Thus some are bending their energies to the attainment of a large amount of the filthy lucre—others are laboring to carry out and impress a certain idea,—perchance a theory—others are striving for a name—others to introduce a certain remedy or set of remedies—some live only to succeed over a rival, while yet others have no object, no end or aim in view, and if candid they would honestly tell you they did not know for what they are living. The word success, has reference to the favorable termination of any undertaking. Now if we were to wish a class of men like these success, while the word has this reference to the termination, our wishes would not harmonize, for in carrying out these plans, actions must somewhere conflict, and if our wishes were fulfilled it would make some of them war against each other,—make enemies and do injury—and above all, we should do violence to the principles of *truth* and *right*.

There is a necessity then as well as propriety, of our applying to this language a definite meaning. We mean then by our good wishes, that you may as physicians, conceive noble thoughts, carry them out by noble actions, and in return succeed in securing a noble reward. Our subject then, has more particular reference to the character of the physician.

It is a fact well known to most persons, that certain animals and insects of various kinds, undergo certain changes in their form and development, and that these metamorphoses seem in many cases to take place suddenly, from one to another form, and seem to change them even into new genera and species.

It appears however, that there are not any of those sudden transformations, which are supposed to take place, but a gradual development from some one fixed point—upwards towards some other fixed point—that in this development, the individual animal or thing retains its identity, and is in reality passing through no more wonderful phases of existence than that higher wrought and more complete animal—man. The egg developes itself into the pupa, the pupa into the caterpillar, the caterpillar changes to the chrysalis, and this, at length, has undergone such a development as to soar away in its more ethereal existence, and rejoice in the life of the butterfly. Our own chosen science teaches us that the human animal also, thus goes through transformations from the simplest cell germ, up to the most complex structure—no less wonderful, or numerous, than those which change the egg to the butterfly.

Interesting however, as are these physical metamorphoses, they are transcended, by far, both in interest and importance, by those which the mental man undergoes. If the child is closely observed, it will be found to live in a mental world of its own, and to have its mental organs adapted to the mode of existence, and to the relations it sustains as a child. Its mental antennæ and prehensile organs are for the child, and by no means such as are used by the man. Its world sustains a similar relation to the world of man, as that of man does to the universe. The child is metamorphosed into the youth, and its relations all become as new again as if in a physical metamorphosis it had changed the medium of earth or water, for that of air, and he again has a new world. The youth grows into manhood, and his relations and mental existence, and the relative world around him become new once more, and he finds that he is undergoing a metamorphosis necessary to his existence in the sphere of these new relations, quite as great as that from the chrysalis to the butterfly. So the inner man is changed with every new condition in which he is placed. If he becomes a lawyer he has to pass the chrysalis stage, and then emerges an entirely new being, as all are well aware,—if a minister, he enters the chrysalis state again, and emerges a being unlike his former self, and as unlike the lawyer, as the silk-worm moth, is unlike the butterfly.

Mentally he lives in a new medium, and draws his sustenance from a widely different set of aliments. If he becomes a physician he enters an entirely different world from either of the others, and sustains an entirely different set of relations. He can now no more subsist upon that which sustains the lawyer, or the divine, than can the dove upon the nectar of flowers or the butterfly upon the grains of corn, which are food for the dove. Thus is there one continual change and metamorphosis of the inner man, as often as he changes his outward relations or avocations, and were we to classify men from their mental habits and form, we should have as many species as there are distinct professions and avocations.

As Students, ladies and gentlemen of the class, you have been in the chrysalis state, and some of you who have spent the measure of time for a full development have emerged this day from your imprisonment into a new microcosmic existence; and as it is ours to introduce you into its privileges and immunities, let us look around and see what are its enjoyments, duties, and pleasures.

I said that the physician requires a different kind of mental aliment from that which others require,—and so he does ; and upon this peculiar kind of food alone, can he subsist without changing into some other species of man.

As students, you have during your pupilage, been developing within yourselves the habit and power of properly selecting this food, which is to be digested and assimilated to your systems, and thus nourish and strengthen you, and assist to elevate you into the higher developments of your species of man.

The truth in regard to the course and close of the student's career, *as such* is not properly understood, or if understood, not properly ap-

preciated, for it is supposed of the student *of medicine for instance*, after confining himself to his books and lectures for three years, and getting his credentials of qualifications, that he emerges from the chrysalis student, into the perfectly developed physician, while the fact is, he follows the unchanging laws of nature, and instead of his being born a man, he is born a child, and if he ever becomes a man in his *profession*, he must pass through the several stages of childhood, youth, and manhood, and sustain the relations of each in its turn.

The young and inexperienced physician is no more capable of collecting in, and digesting the mental food, upon which, the wise and experienced of his profession subsist, than the child is capable of collecting and digesting the food for man. There is no by-way or "royal road" to manhood, and he who gets to it must grow up to it. "When *I complete* my studies," said a young medical student to the great Dr. Rush.—"Pray, when do you expect to complete your studies?" said Dr. Rush; "I have been studying sixty years, and I have not yet, nor do I ever expect, to complete my studies." And do you not suppose that his mind filled with the culled wisdom of half a century, required a more refined material to nourish it, than one who has just entered the boundary lines of the profession? But the studies, proper for the student, are just as important in their place, for his personal development as are the most perfected, to those capable of understanding them. There are certain classes of facts to acquire, which sustain a definite relation to each other, and each class of facts is *important* in proportion as it is related to another higher class. It is interesting to know that a certain gelatinous, amorphous fish exists in the sea, but it becomes a far more important fact when it is known that this mass of slippery matter is the elementary form of existence of that interesting animal known as the *star fish*. The anatomy and physiology of plants, and the lower animals, may interest the student of nature, but the value of the facts he acquires, becomes infinitely enhanced, when their relations are so understood as to aid in developing those more important facts which elucidate the physiology of the human system.

But the facts of minor importance, so called, are in reality just as *important* in their place, as the others, for by their elucidation the others are made to appear.

Thus is knowledge amassed in strata, and if we would know what is in the deep foundation strata, we must penetrate and analyze each layer above, and these shall help us to an understanding of those below. To educate the mind is to draw it out—to unfold and develope its powers—instead of amassing a certain amount of facts, which only requires a certain strength and effort of memory.

Your course of study thus far, has been largely for this purpose. Facts and truth have been amassed, and you have been made more or less thoroughly acquainted with the system, its diseases, and their remedies and modes of application, but unless this knowledge is instrumental, or rather, the getting of it, instrumental in making you capable of collecting, arranging, and reasoning upon other facts, that

which you have acquired will be of but comparatively little use to you.

No one in the world is thrown into circumstances where he will have to depend more upon himself, and less upon higher authority than the physician. His mind should ever be vigorous, his perceptions well trained and quick, his memory ready and strong, his reflective faculties well balanced, and well educated, and the whole man, calm, dignified, self-possessed and firm. With such a mind, observations will nearly always be correct, results well estimated, and conclusions drawn which will do honor to their author.

But this discipline of mind and power of its faculties, can only be obtained by a long course of the closest mental application.

The whole life must be a student's life if there is the attainment of great power. This is exemplified in the person of the late John Q. Adams, than whom no man scarcely, ever studied more devotedly or more successfully. Baron Humboldt is another. By study for the physician, I mean not the constant conning over of books alone, for after a certain time, beyond a certain point rather, books become of but little value in ones course, for he has access to the repository whence all book knowledge comes. Nature's volume is open before him, inviting, exhaustless, and pure.

For the development of the mind, every effort helps to give it power, whether in the immediate range of its activities or not; hence the cultivation of those branches of science which have a more distant relation to medicine, will directly or indirectly aid in unfolding and understanding the fundamental parts. No science has so wide a range of affinities or dependencies, as medicine. Chemistry, Botany, Comparative Anatomy, and a hundred kindred sciences, are all put under contribution for its advancement.

A familiarity with the most important of these, should be attained by every one in a sufficient degree to understand the unity of design that pervades the whole organized world of matter, if it would be cultivated in the spirit of philosophy instead of as a means simply, to the attainment of some secondary object.

In this way, by a constant effort, truth after truth, and principle after principle shall be added to your stock of acquired truths and principles, and as they are slowly and regularly obtained, they shall one after another add new powers to the mind, till in the consciousness of its own strength, it shall eagerly grapple with the most difficult problems. Such a mind, thus endowed, is to its possessor a mine of inexhaustible wealth, an honor to any cause in which its energies are embarked, and in turn honored of all men. It is true that the undertaking is arduous,—and after toiling thus far, it may seem discouraging to point on to labor still more toilsome, but who has entered the list of competitors for the world's honor, the world's wealth, or the world's truth, expecting to idly win? But the task of acquiring mental power is not so difficult as it seems. One new fact each day will make 365 at the end of the year, and no new effort is more difficult than the last. If it were wealth that I were advising you thus to accumulate, you would see the way and task more pleasant perhaps. I hope you may secure a competence of this, but

the mind has its wants as well as the body, and I would have you just as eager—aye, far more eager to treasure up the mental, than the physical wealth—knowing that reward must ever follow exalted worth. Let Excelsior be your motto now and ever.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Report on Dispensatories, &c.

BY PROFS. KING AND NEWTON.

To the National E. M. Convention, held at Rochester, N. Y., May 11th, and 12th, 1852 :—

The Committee on Dispensatories, &c., appointed by the U. S. E. M. Convention, beg leave to report, that since the last annual meeting of the Association, there has been issued a work, entitled the "E. M. Dispensatory of the U. S." by King and Newton, both of whom are members of this Committee. The Committee are aware that this work is not as perfect as could be desired ; but when it is taken into consideration that there were no works upon the subject, and that the mass of information to be placed in a work of the kind, existed in an indefinite and scattered condition, to thoroughly collect and arrange which would require a much longer time than the Committee deemed expedient, it will, no doubt, readily be conceded, that the above work is suitable to the present state of the E. M. cause, and will serve as a basis for a more thorough and perfect publication hereafter ; and will therefore, be adopted by Eclectics generally.

Your Committee is at present engaged in arranging and collecting material for an improvement upon the work, which however, will require a few years for its completion. In the mean time, they would solicit from the members of the Convention, and from Eclectics generally, an accurate account of all new or useful agents, their manner of action upon the systems of those of various temperaments and diatheses, the peculiar symptoms of disease which indicate their employment, as well as those which contraindicate, and the various effects or influences they have on different diseases, and during their various stages. If this matter is promptly attended to as desired, a work can be produced of immense utility to the Eclectic practitioner, and which will rank in point of science with any other of a similar kind now extant in medical literature.

The "E. M. Dispensatory of the U. S." above referred to, has now been in print for about seven months, during which time, and notwithstanding its brevity and imperfections, it is eagerly sought after by all classes of practitioners, even by those who have no sympathy with our cause ; and we trust that it may become a means of at least inducing a proper investigation of the correctness and consequent claims of Eclectic Medical Practice, among those who have heretofore differed from us.

In consideration of the above facts, your committee having in their opinion, complied with the desires of the Convention in relation to

this subject, would recommend the above work to the especial attention of the Convention, as being, under the circumstances and difficulties which have presented themselves, suitable to the exigencies of the times, and worthy their adoption. All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN KING, M. D.
R. S. NEWTON, M. D.

Cincinnati, May 8th, 1852.

Conditions of Health—No. 2—Drink.

BY PALEMON JOHN, M. D.

In my last I spoke of *food*, its uses in the animal economy, the quality, etc., most conducive to health, and the evils resulting from its *abuses*. In this I propose indulging in *some* remarks—rambling and disconnected they may be—respecting *drink*. As far as the *uses* of drink are concerned, it is as essential to the healthful operations of the animal machinery, as food. It is intended to lubricate, dilute, moisten, cool, and to supply wastes; and for the answering of all these necessary and important ends. *Water*—pure and simple water—is *the best*. In looking about us, we find it to be the natural "drink" for both the vegetable and animal creation; and innumerable facts and inferences might be adduced to prove it to be *the* drink for man; that

> "There's nothing so good
> For pure, healthful blood;"

that no other so powerfully contributes to health, physical strength, and endurance of labor and fatigue, and to the vigor and clearness of the intellectual powers; that *unlike* those who do

> "Apply
> Hot and rebellious *liquors* to their blood,"
> "Their equal days
> Feel not th' alternate fits of feverish mirth
> And sick dejection.——
> Blest with divine immunity from ails,
> Long centuries they live; their only fate
> Is ripe old age, and rather sleep than death."

No other liquid is so adapted to every age and temperament—every season and climate,—none so exhilarating—none so refreshing—none so inspiring—nor any capable of imparting such permanent invigoration of mind and body. How strange, then, is it not? that it should be *so much* neglected—*so little* used. How unaccountable that *other* kinds of beverage, such as *tea*, *coffee* and *wine*, etc., should become so much more popular, and so much more *loved!* But here comes up a gentle pleader: "Speak lightly of *tea*. Rememder it is the *favorite* of the ladies,—'the soul of evening sociability—the unloosener of tongues, enlivener of wit, unveiler of character.'" Heaven knows that I would not *justly* incur your displeasure, readers fair, much less be the subject of your satire or "tea-table" gossip, after flattering

your palates and "loosening your tongues" with the "*delicious*" infusion, for then might I truly exclaim,

"Oh, tea, how I tremble at thy fatal stream!"

No, *gentle* reader, I would do no such thing; for many are the instances which I can recall in the history of the "gone forever," when I enjoyed myself in seeing *my* good old matron drinking her favorite potations of tea; how it seemed to drive all of dull care and trouble away, and light up her every feature with very enjoyment. And the many thrills of pleasure and delight that were mine, I can never forget, on beholding the animated expressions, and listening to the enlivening conversations, so seasoned with pungency and wit, of the good aunts and neighbors' wives, that so often called in to spend the afternoon, when around the table supping the liquid they all loved so well; and—*quietly though*—a good many things both "queer and marvelous" were said; but no matter about them now. And oft have I heard it reiterated, that many of our choice productions of literature are written under the influence of tea; that some of the ablest writers of the past and present age—some of those who have added invaluable treasures to the great "store-house of knowledge—have attributed their success to their freely indulging in strong infusions of "imperial" and "Hyson." Now then, I have enumerated, have I not? all the redeeming properties and virtues of your "favorite weed." I have owned, have I not? that it possesses the power sometimes of driving sluggish care away, and of making the sad heart glad; but, ah, I must own, too, that like the *solanum dulcamara*, with its sweet it possesses a *bitter*; that with its good properties it bossesses *bad* ones; and "what a pity" that the bitter—the *deleterious*—should counterbalance—predominate. 'Tis, nevertheless, *the fact*, and as an instructor of the people, as a "guardian of health," I am bound to warn you that this favorite "weed of China," and the so much loved "Arabian berry"—*tea* and *coffee*—are *not* the *proper* kinds of drink for you; that they are injurious to health, and tend to the premature wasting away and wearing out of the physical machinery. I know there are those who *may* indulge in their use without *serious* injury; such as the strong and robust in constitution; and to harshly censure or sternly reprobate the enjoyment and pleasure of these, is neither my task nor my duty. But you that are feeble and nervous; you that are dyspeptical, hypochondriacal or gouty; you whose "hearts beat as though they would burst from their case, from the slightest noise or unexpected remark," I warn such as you against their use. Pure and simple water is the only drink at all compatible with your bodily comfort and mental tranquility. But how difficult to enforce these rules. Long continued practices are hard to change, nor are morbid appetites easily conquered.

A lady who has been a tea-drinker a long, long while, comes to me for advice. She tells me she is much troubled with "sick-headache"—she "cannot sleep"—she is "nervous" and unhappy. I advise her to give up her tea. Oh, no! that she will never do; she has "taken

it so long, it cannot be injurious;" and in her volubility of praise, even quotes some star in the literary constellation, in favor of its "incomparable virtues." So when we speak of the pernicious operations and effects of Coffee, and recommend the irascible dyspeptic, who implores us to relieve him, to abstain from its use, how often have we not found him to "turn about" and contend in its favor, and perhaps even adduce Voltaire in proof of its "very good effects." Arguments, logic, and the citation of facts, are only "amunition spent in vain," on cases like these; and the only reply I have to make to such, is, if you *will* not listen to my advice, I can do nothing for you. If you *will* follow the example of Johnson in his "copious potations of tea," you may, like him, endure the dreadful imaginings of a mind eternally struggling against the most dismal melancholy; and if you are determined to persevere in the sipping of your "coffee, hot and strong," like Voltaire, you are welcome to spend the remainder of your days in perpetual restlessness, approximating nearer, day after day, the walking skeleton, "pale, sallow and thin."

But as injurious as tea and coffee are; as prolific as they have been in adding aches and pains to the catalogue of human ills, they are not to be compared with the products of the still. Here I am aware that my views will clash against those of the votaries of the goblet, who love to surround the festive board. Sociability, they tell us, is more active, and friendship warmer, when gathered in convivial parties, indulging the "cheerful glass;" that no other beverage so softens the rugged feelings, and introduces a spirit so "easily appeased," and for evidence, which they feel assured cannot be gainsayed, they jumble up patches of lore, and point to the historian and orator—Horace and Pitt,—and to the children of song—Burns, "glorious Burns," and the "Bard of England," who sang,

"I had friends; who has not? but what tongue will avow
That friends, rosy wine! are as faithful as thou?"

and claim them all, not only as patrons of jovial mirth, but as authorities in favor of reveling sometimes in the halls of Bacchus. But give *me* the hearty expressions of good will—the free gushings forth of true affection and friendship inspired, when friend meets friend, from drinking

"Water pure and bright
In its liquid light,
From some noble spring."

And, oh save me from that "long and dark catalogue of misunderstandings, converted into mistrust, jealousy and rankling hate; of friendship severed, the strongest ties of society broken, the finest feelings outraged," and the countless evils and miseries created by indulging in Lord Byron's "rosy wine." But 'twill "dispel sorrow and drown revenge." Ah!

"Mistaken man! whom sorrow, thus, and rage
To different ills alternately engage;
Who drink, alas! but to forget; nor see
That melancholy, sloth, severe disease,
Memory confused, and interrupted thought,
Death's harbingers, lie latent in the draught."

Many have I heard contend—and medical men, too—that in cases of weak and feeble digestion, and in cases of prostration from exercise or disease, spirituous liquors are not only useful, but *necessary*. Now, plainly and honestly, *I* do not believe a word of it. Digestion is a vital process, and will only be retarded by the introduction of distilled or malt liquors of *any* kind, because the tendency of these is to "cause fermentation of the food, irregular movements of the stomach, and the too speedy passage of its contents." Whatever else is necessary to the food, after it has been subjected to thorough mastication, and passed into the stomach, is simple fluid—*pure water*—for no other liquid,

> "——— like simple water, dilutes
> The food, and makes the chyle so soon to flow."

An individual has been prostrated by disease; he has a "burning fever." What so cooling and refreshing to him, or what beverage so useful, as *water?* or bland drinks of which it is the basis. How well he appreciates the meaning of Proctor,

> "In sickness, aye, when frame and spirit sank,
> I turned me to thy crystal stream and drank
> *Invigorating* draughts."

Another has been exhausted by a severe and lingering disease. Are spiritous liquors most successful in supplying the wastes and renovating his strength? Innumerable facts, and an abundance of experience, have proven that these important ends are accomplished with the most safety and success, as far as beverage is concerned, where a watery regimen has been pursued; while, on the other hand, where brandies, cordials, etc., have been instituted, instances are not wanting where they have created an unnatural appetite, which led to all the evils and miseries of intemperance.

If this *randoming* article is favorably received by the editors, another of the "same sort" shall be forthcoming, on Dress.

Millville, Pa., Fifth Month, 1852.

Active Principles of the Rhus Glabrum.

BY W. ELMER, M. D.

RHUSINE.—This is a Resinoid obtained from the leaves of the *Rhus* Glabrum, (Upland Sumach.) It is prepared by percolation with *spiritus Rectificatus*,—*specific gravity* 0,830. The solvent is displaced by means of a vacuum apparatus. The Rhusine is then precipitated and washed with *Aqua distillata*, dried on filter cloth, in an airy, dry room, and reduced to a fine powder.

Medical properties and uses.—Tonic, astringent, and antiseptic.—In the treatment of diarrhœa, dysentery, and bowel diseases generally, Rhusine is a remedy of great merit, and seldom disappoints the expectation of the physician. Its action as a tonic is peculiar to the mucous membrane, while its astringent effects are mild, yet sufficient-

ly active for the successful cure of the above diseases. It must not be forgotten, however, that in all cases of diarrhœa and dysentery, the exciting cause must first be removed; and no remedy is of more value, in fulfilling this indication, than the leptandrin. The most successful treatment, is as follows: Leptandrin is given in doses from one to two grains, every two to four hours, till a cathartic effect is produced. The Rhusine is then given in doses from one to two grains, every two, three, or four hours, according to the severity of the case.

The concentrated semi-fluid preparation of the *Rhus Glabrum*, contains all the essential properties of this plant, in a convenient form, for the treatment of old ulcers, sores, putrid sore throat, bronchitis, sore mouth and throat in scarlet fever, mercurial salivation, etc.; for which it is an excellent remedy. Its medical properties are similar to the Resinoid principle, but it contains more tannic acid, and is therefore more of an astringent. It also contains the coloring and extractive matter. In diseases of the kidneys, putrid fever, etc., it has been used with favorable results. Dose, from five to ten drops. For a gargle, or external application, it may be diluted with alchohol.

A. P. Institute, N. Y., May, 1852.

Report on the Comparative Merits of Different Medical Systems.

BY PROF. Z. FREEMAN.

Your committee upon the comparative merits of the different systems of medical practice beg leave to report, that the results of Allopathic, Hydropathic, and other practices are not satisfactory to the majority of the thinking community. Homeopathy in this city is slowly upon the wane, and those who were formerly Eclectics in practice, but have since adopted Homeopathy, are losing the confidence of their patrons in consequence of the impotency of the means used for remedial purposes.

Eclecticism is gaining ground rapidly, and our best citizens are adopting it in their families. Its superior efficacy not only in the treatment of diseases in general, but in its application to surgery is securing to it a popularity and reputation which is indeed not only encouraging but enviable.

For the comparative statistics to sustain the above, we refer you to the Committee on Medical Statistics. The above is respectfully submitted to the attention of the National E. M. Convention, in session at Rochester, N. Y. Z. FREEMAN, M. D.

Cincinnati, May 8th, 1852.

CEPHALIC SNUFF.—The following has proved itself highly valuable for catarrh :

Take black snuff—one ounce. Pulv. Squills—one drachm. Mix. Use three times a day.

SELECTIONS.

On Bandaging the Abdomen after Delivery.

BY W. B. KESTEVEN, SURGEON.

[Mr. Kesteven, although sensible that the weight of opinion is against him, records his conviction that too much stress has been laid upon the importance of the bandage after delivery, and that the rationale of its usefulness has been misunderstood. In order to arrive at a correct conclusion on the subject, he examines it under the following points of view :—1st. The alleged object to be gained by the bandage. 2d. Its real effects. 3d. Its proper object, and the right period for its application. With this intent, he thus proceeds :]

1st. The objects alleged to be gained by the application of the roller directly after the completion of labor, are :—*a*, to promote the contraction of the uterus; *b*, to lessen the severity of the after-pains; *c*, to prevent hemorrhage; *d*, to prevent syncope; *e*, to protect the patient against the consequences of sudden alteration of the balance of the circulation, by which syncope, inactivity of the uterus, hemorrhage, and subsequent diseases have been produced.

On examining, at the bedside, the validity of these several objects, it may be observed, in the first place, that all, or any, of these supposed ends may be gained without the use of the bandage.

a. In the vast majority of cases the uterus contracts rapidly, firmly, and permanently, directly upon delivery, without the aid of bandaging. That such is the case a very short experience among the *laboring poor* will soon convince the clinical student. The poor women who are delivered by midwives, and the hundreds, aye thousands, who are yearly delivered without any aid, would, were it not so, have all the dangers of uncontracted uterus to contend with. That such is rarely the case admits of no doubt.

b. That measures which shall promote the contraction of the uterus can hardly be seriously recommended as a means of lessening the severity of the after-pains; the contradiction is too manifest to require further comment.

c. For the prevention of hemorrhage, the application of a roller certainly possesses no claim. Every practitioner who has dilligently applied the bandage has had to remove it, in order to apply that efficient pressure to the uterus which is most important in promoting its contractions, hemorrhage having taken place in spite of the compression that had been made by the bandage. In fact, the tightly bandaging the hypogastric region with the addition of pads, compresses, basins, &c., &c., has probably frequently given rise to hemorrhage by interfering with the gradual tonic contraction of the uterus. The early application of a binder and compress is a complete obstacle to that vigilant attention to the state of the uterus after labor, which

it is the wisdom as well as the duty of the medical attendant to pay for some little time after delivery. Where pressure is properly made, hemorrhage is not frequently met with. The very officious accoucheur, who loads his patient's abdomen with divers pads, and other similar contrivances, must frequently have had occasion to remove them. Without these, the earliest signs of hemorrhage may be recognized; with them, they are often concealed; without these hindrances, therefore, the occurrence may be arrested at its outset. It is not the purpose of the present communication to dwell upon the treatment of uterine hemorrhage, but the above hints may serve to show that the bandage has few claims for adoption on that score.

d. The prevention of syncope, is undoubtedly an object of paramount importance: it calls, therefore, for very full examination, as obtainable by the use of the bandage after labor. The indication for its use in reference to the prevention of syncope is theoretically deduced by analogy from the necessity that exists for the application of abdominal compression during the operation of paracentesis. Here, although an analogy does undoubtedly exist, the cases are far from parallel—the conditions not identical—at least not in labor unattended with flooding. When hemorrhage from the uterus occurs, the heart is then physiologically affected in the same manner as where a large quantity of dropsical effusion has suddenly been removed from the abdomen. The removal of the pressure from surrounding vessels in the one case being performed in the upright or sitting posture, suddenly empties the heart of its blood, in the same way that it is emptied by a sudden gush from the uterus. In natural labor there are these points of physiological difference: the heart is not suddenly deprived of a quantity of blood, because the mass of blood previously circulating in the enlarged vessels and hypertrophied structure of the uterus is thrown back upon the aorta *pari passu* with the diminution of the tumour by the contractions of the uterus. The consequent removal of pressure from the surrounding vessels is therefore compensated by the non-abstraction of blood from the arterial system, which so far, may be regarded as the equivalent of the compression which is had recourse to for the purpose of obviating the sudden change in the state of the circulation that takes place in tapping.—Cases of excessive quantity of liquor amnii, triplet and quartet cases, form instances in which the analogy with the effect of tapping becomes closer. The difference in position must also be borne in mind, when an analogy is attempted to be drawn between these two conditions. In tapping, the position is erect—in labour, it is horizontal. To this rule of difference, however, exceptions occur, parturition sometimes occurs so rapidly, and so unexpectedly, that delivery takes place before the parturient woman can assume the recumbent posture. That such exceptional cases do not invalidate the rule is sufficiently shown by their rarity, and also by the evil consequences that often follow thereon. It may be remarked then for these reasons, that it is obvious that women after delivery have not to thank the bandage for their exemption from syncope. The writer has never seen a case of mere syncope occurring after labour, where the horizontal posture has been carefully observed for some hours, although he has system-

atically neglected to apply the bandage. He has occasionally seen it, and has heard of even fatal syncope where this precaution of the horizontal position has been violated.

c. Having above disposed of the futility of the argument for the use of the bandage to prevent hemorrhage or syncope, other evils supposed to be consequent upon a disturbance of the balance of the circulation are obviously as little likely to be benefitted by that contrivance.

The second division of this subject is next examined.

2d. The real effect of bandaging the abdomen after delivery.

a. It affords support to the abdominal walls, if applied moderately firm.

b. It gives comfort to the patient, and meets her wishes or prejudices with reference to the preservation of the figure. Among its effects, which are not so harmless as these, are its aggravation of after pains, and the inducement of irregular contraction of the uterus; its obstruction to manipulations; its interference with the action of the diaphragm; its displacing the uterus, and causing obliquity, prolapsus, &c., of that organ; its interference with a most valuable means of controlling uterine hemorrhage, viz., the compression of the aorta. All these are highly important matters, and are to be found among the consequences of the tight bandaging which is adopted by some practitioners.

3d. The consideration of the two preceeding topics leads to that of the third,—the proper object of, and right period for the application of the bandage. The first point may be very briefly expressed in the words of Dr. Blundell. It is to be applied "with that degree of tension which may yield a sense of grateful support." This is the whole truth of the question—the sole object of the bandage is to afford a comfortable degree of support; it is not to effect forcible compression of the abdomen.

The proper period for its employment is therefore not until the uterus has firmly contracted, the patient having been left to undisturbed rest for at least two hours, has had her linen changed, and is being "put to bed." Before this period it, as has been shown, is but an incumbrance. At this time the bandage will afford "a sense of grateful support," and will meet the patient's prejudice with reference to the preservation of her figure—a prejudice which may in this way be harmlessly humored; it being emphatically impressed upon the minds of the patient and her attendants, that the application of a bandage is of infinitely less importance than quiet rest; that the contraction of the uterus is more effectually and naturally induced by the child's mouth at the nipple, than by all the screwing and squeezing machines that were ever contrived.

If the necessity of any proceeding may be measured by the end it is intended to serve, most assuredly the importance of the abdominal bandage has been much over-rated. The preceding remarks have shown that its alleged objects are not obtainable, even if they are desirable; that its real effects are either trifling, or evil; that its proper object is of a very subordinate character, and pertaining rather to the functions of the nurse than to those of the medical attendant.—*Medical Gazette.*

On the Varieties of Alvine Discharges in Children.

BY DR. MERBI.

[The intestinal discharges mentioned by the author are :]

1. The *yellow* discharge. This is the regular kind of stool in infants. It is a mixture of intestinal secretions with bile. As children advance in age, and begin to take substantial food, the color of their regular discharge becomes more and more of a light brown color.

2. The *mucous* discharge. White mucous matter, more or less thick or liquid, and mixed with serum, sometimes with a proportion of bile. This discharge is preceeded by but moderate pains, and frequently by no pains at all. It denotes a catarrhous, sub-inflammatory, or irritable state of the intestines, and is almost always of local, and not of sympathetic, origin; in general it is not dangerous, and at its commencement is easily manageable by opiates, warm poultices, and convenient hygiene. If neglected, it becomes pertinacious and severe, and not seldom connected with swelling, softening, or granules of the mucous membrane, or ulceration of the follicles. If stripes of blood are mixed with the mucus, and pain be present, it denotes a higher degree of inflammation, in particular of the follicles. The highest development in this direction constitutes enteritis or colitis (dysentery.)

Sometimes we find among the mucus, consistent *plastic concretions* of a more or less tubular shape, similar to those of laryngeal croup, but larger in proportion to the volume of the intestines. This is the strongest degree of the catarrhous process which I might term the *croup of the intestines.* Among the whole number of my little patients, which may be about 30,000, I met with this discharge perhaps only twenty or thirty times. The discharge is effected with very painful efforts at stool.

3. The *serous.* In general, after more or less severe pains, the discharge takes place with a certain rigidity and noise, after which the pains lessen or subside. It consists of an abundant quantity of serous liquid, dirty whitish, yellowish, or greenish, as besides mucus, bile is the most common mixture with the serum. The serous diarrhœa is commonly the effect of rheumatism in the peritoneum, in the serous and fibrous membranes, or in the nerves of the intestines. I found in these cases the abdomen very hot. If a great deal of mucus and some blood are mixed with the serum, we may suspect parenchymatous enteritis ; if the serous membrane alone enters into the state of acute inflammation, frequently transudation takes place on its free surface.

I have seen cases of profuse serous discharge, in a very short time, even in less than twenty-four hours, produce collapse and death, and in some of these instances necroscopy could not discover an adequate alteration either in the mucous or in the serous membrane.

The serous species of discharge is frequently merely a product of sympathetic secretion. I observed it sometimes connected with large transudations in the chest, and with chronic hydrocephalus.

Speaking in general, serous diarrhœa, if even arising from rheumatism, is more difficult to manage than the mucous. Very minute doses of calomel, [or podophyllin,] with Dover's powder, and mustard poultices, are frequently beneficial.

Pure serum, like rice-water, is a less favorable quality than the dirty-white or yellowish. Dark-brown serum frequently denotes a disorder in the portal system, present in some severe gastric or typhoid fevers, but I have seen a similar quality also in chronic affections of the brain, and very frequently in scrofulo-impetiginous children.—This is worthy our attention, in particular if eczema or impetigo has disappeared from the head and face. This brown and fetid discharge accompanies sometimes the commencement of chronic hydrocephalus. I treated it successfully, in this last case, with high but very diluted doses of iodide of potash.

4. *The green bilious discharge.* If pure bile, then the voided matter is in general not abundant. In young children it is of a more yellowish than green colour. The essential character of bile is, to be *of a greenish colour* (in infants it is voided green) *at the very moment of its evacuation.* This kind of discharge is very frequently present in acute inflammatory and febrile affeetions; if dependent upon an affection of the brain, then we may find the colour to be rather brown, and the abdomen retracted. If a similar source produces abundant serous-bilious discharges, then we find the abdomen much collapsed. But I must observe, acute affections of the brain are almost always connected with constipation, only in some cases of chronic hydrocephalus I met with the mentioned diarrhœa. Bilious discharge, as arising from bilious fever, or from derangement of the liver, is rare in young children. In this case the right hypochondrium will be more or less bloated up. We must be careful not to confound the green bilious discharge with the following:

5. The *discharge, like chopped eggs,* mixed with mucus, some clots of bile, and caseous coagula of indigested milk, or other kind of food, accompanied almost always by gripes and flatulence; its smell is disagreeably acid, and the whole matter, some minutes after being discharged and *exposed to the atmosphere, becomes green.* We know not exactly the chemical change which produces this coloration, it seems to be an oxydation of some of the elements. Then the essential character of this discharge is, that it is yellow at first, and becomes green by exposure to the atmosphere, whilst bile is green at the moment it comes out. I shall call this *the acid saburral discharge,* which is the most obvious before the sixth month of age, in particular if the sucking child takes, besides the milk, some farinaceous food. Practitioners, commonly prescribe in this case rhubarb, with magnseia. For my part I prefer, in tender infants, to rely more upon a convenient change in the diet, and as a remedy, aromatic frictions of the epigastrium, and internally bicarbonate of soda, dissolved in mint water.

6. The *bloody discharge.* Pure red blood is seldom discharged by children; in some rare cases I have seen half or one table-spoonful come out, as the product of active congestion and hemorrhage.—Very frequently, on the contrary, blood is combined with the mucous discharge, and in this case, if it is preceded by pain, without tender-

ness, it denotes an inflammation in the upper parts of the intestinal tube, at least not near the rectum. Tenesmus signifies that the seat of the inflammation is in the lower parts of the colon, or in the rectum. This form is commonly called *dysentery*, not dangerous, if it is without bilious complication and fever, and if treated in its early stage with Dover's powder, some doses of castor oil, and warm poultices; in a stronger degree leeches at the anus; but if neglected in the commencement, it becomes dangerous to the life of the child. Professor Rokitansky, of Vienna, describes most exactly what he calls the "dysenteric process," in three gradual degrees of anatomical change. The highest degree, presenting a dirty red and gray marbled surface, with considerable thickening, granulation, and ulceration, I never saw in the tender age. Young children die before this stage is developed.

Passive hemorrhage of the intestines very seldom occurs in children. I have seen, however, some cases where, without adequate pain, a considerable quantity of dark thin blood was discharged. Lastly, we have seen in this town, with Mr. Wilson, a case in a child six years old, where, during the course of a gastro-typhoid fever, more than one pint of carbonized blood was discharged in two days. The case recovered. The boy is affected with an enlarged spleen.

Moderate quantities of red blood, discharged without pain, frequently occur, mixed with mucus, and are, without signification, sometimes even connected with the advance of recovery from gastric affections. This is the same case as with epistaxis.

Golding Bird and Simon, state as the result of chemical analysis, that some dark green stools of children owe this colour to blood which has suffered a certain chemical change; but those chemical inquiries are not yet arrived at a satisfactory exactness; we do not even know exactly what kind of green discharges were the subject of these inquiries.

7. *Calomel stools.* Green, more or less thick, or mixed with serum, and in this case more abundant, produced by full doses of calomel.—Calomel stools resemble bile, and contain much bile, but they contain also some particular chemical elements which we do not exactly know. In many instances it happens that the calomel diarrhœa commences some days or weeks after the use of mercury, and we must be aware of this, and not confound it with the primary bilious discharge. In the former case the region of the liver is in general softer than in the latter. A clever practitioner will never try to stop directly, and with astringents, a green discharge, whatever be its origin and nature.

Calomel stools sometimes contain blood. After what I have seen in dissection, I incline to attribute this circumstance to a sub-inflammatory state, with superficial erosions of the mucous membrane, which sometimes take place in children after the continued use of calomel.

[The author states that he considers all these qualitative and physical distinctions of the discharges of children as very imperfect outlines of a sketch, which, by farther physical and chemical inquiry can becocorrectedme and perfected.]—*Provincial Med. & Surg. Journal.*

Eclectical Variation as a Cause of Disease.

In a series of papers recently published in the "Medical Gazette." Mr. W. Craig has most ingeniously, if not conclusively, argued the question of the agency of variations in electrical tension as a cause of disease, referring to this many of the instances in which maladies have been supposed to arise from malaria, cold and wet, &c. He commences by admitting fully the assumption, that the electricity evolved during respiration and assimilation, is the source of nervous power, and that to the maintenance of the due balance of this force is due the maintenance of health. He then inquires into the circumstances which are liable to disturb the equilibrium of human electricity, and determines, that one most effective agent is water in the state of vapour; and thus explains the presumed effects of malaria, and what in common parlance is termed a chill. As a practical demonstration of, at all events, the remarkable coincidence of disease and low electric tension, he cites a communication respecting cholera, made by M. Andral to the Academie des Sciences. These observations appear to us so important, that we give them at length. Stating that he was in possession of a very powerful electrical machine, M. Andral says :—

"I have remarked that, since the invasion of cholera, I have not been able to produce on any occasion the same effect. Before the invasion of cholera in ordinary weather, after two or three turns of the wheel, brilliant sparks of five or six centimetres in length were given out. During the months of April and May, the sparks, obtained by great trouble, have never exceeded two or three centimetres, and their variations accorded very nearly with the variations of cholera. This was already for me a strong presumption that I was on the track of the important fact that I was endeavouring to find.—Nevertheless, I was not yet convinced; because one might attribute the fact to the moisture that was in the air, or to the irregularities of the electric machine. Thus I waited with patience the arrival of fine weather, and heat, to continue my observations with more certainty. At last fine weather came, and, to my astonishment, the machine, frequently consulted, far from showing, as it ought to have done, an augmentation of electricity, has given signs less and less sensible, to such a degree that, during the days of the 4th, 5th, and 6th of June, it was impossible to obtain anything but slight cracklings without sparks. On the 7th of June the machine remained quite dumb. This new decrease of the electric fluid has perfectly accorded with the renewed violence of the cholera, as is only too well known. For my own part, I was not more alarmed than astonished; my conviction was complete. At last, on the morning of the 8th, some feeble sparks reappeared, and from that hour the intensity decreased.—Towards evening a storm announced at Paris that the electricity had re-entered its domain; in my eyes, it was the cholera which disappeared with the cause which produced it. The next day I continued my observations; the machine at the least touch rendeted with facility some lively sparks." M. Andral goes on to state, that, in the six

days following the 8th of June, the mortality in Paris fell gradually from 667 to 355.

As illustrative of the individual effects of withdrawal of electricity as a cause of disease, the author cites the familiar instance of getting wet. In this case, he observes, the wet is converted into moisture, which abstracts electrical force from the surface of the body. If the person be young and vigorous, or by having food in his stomach he generates electricity, he may resist the effects of the loss; but if old and infirm, and no generation of electricity is going on but through the respiration, the nervous power is depressed, and disease of some kind or other arises.

At a further part of his interesting essay, the author considers the most approved methods of avoiding this disturbed balance in electrical tension, such as proper clothing, habitations, and food; he also investigates the action of electricity on vegetable life, and more particularly in reference to the origination of the potato disease; after which he recapitulates his views in the following propositions:—

1st. That heat and electricity are identified, as the one can be converted into the other.

2d. That a large volume of electricity surrounds every primary constituent of matter, especially that form of matter which constitutes the gaseous bodies.

3d. That animal heat is supported by the electricity liberated from the primary constituents of matter during the processes of respiration, digestion, and assimilation.

4th. That electricity is evolved during these processes, on the same principle as that which is evolved during the action of a galvanic arrangement.

5th. That electricity and nervous power are analogous, if not identical; as the action of the one can be successfully substituted for the other.

6th. That the majority of diseases are caused either by the sudden abstraction or slow abduction of electricity from the body.

7th. That a low state of electrical tension on the surface of the earth, produced either by the action of evaporation or some occult movement in the great internal currents of the earth, is the remote cause of epidemic and pestilential diseases.

8th. That occasional and ordinary diseases are produced by the sudden abstraction, or slow abduction of electricity from the body, or by its undue elimination during the vital processes.

9th. That since electricity is so essential to the integrity of the vital operations, it is indispensable to promote its evolution and to prevent over-radiation.

10th. That electricity is the source of vitality in vegetable life, and that by its instrumentality the roots extract nutriment from the soil.

11th. That vegetables of rapid growth require a large supply of electricity; and the potato is of this kind.

12th. That the potato disease is produced by defective nutrition, which arises from defective electric agency, arising from influences which produces low tension of that force.

Note on Sulphate of Bebeerine.

BY HENRY S. PATTERSON, M. D.,
Professor of Materia Medica in Pennsylvania Medical College.

At a time when the discovery of a substitute for Sulphate of Quinia is a topic of general discussion, it may not be inappropriate to call the attention of the profession to a substance, heretofore noticed, but too generally neglected. The Sulphate of Bebeerine has been shown, by Dr. Maclagan, of Edinburgh, to be a medicine of very considerable anti-periodic power, closely resembling the corresponding salt of Quinia, and in many respects equal to it,—possibly superior. It is obtained from the Bebeeru or Green-heart (*Nectandra Rodiei*) of British Guiana, a tree of considerable size and extremely abundant. The bark yields the alkaloid largely, but it is particularly abundant in the nut. A decoction of the latter is the ordinary popular remedy for intermittent fever in Demarara, and, as I am informed by an intelligent gentleman of that place, seldom, if ever, fails to arrest the disease. The nut may be collected in almost indefinite quantities, and could be obtained here, if a demand were created, for little more than the expense of collection and transportation. The process for separating the alkaloid is almost identical with that for quinia, and not more expensive. If, therefore, it proves on trial equal in efficacy to that alkaloid, we will have a cheap and effective substitute within the reach of all. The subject certainly deserves a more extended investigation than it has hitherto received. The object of the present communication is to invite attention to it, and induce the profession, in miasmatic districts, to give the remedy a fair trial.

Sulphate of Bebeerine occurs in shining brown plates, (sometimes with a greenish tinge,) is inodorous, and has a bitter, harsh, somewhat astringent taste. Like the Sulphate of Quinia, it requires an excess of acid for its perfect solution. It may be given in pill, solution, or powder. That it is a good general tonic, in small doses, is very evident. In the full anti-periodic dose it is more apt to disturb the stomach than the same quantity of Sulphate of Quinia, and occasionally vomits; but it possesses the advantage of being much less stimulating, and does not effect the head as that salt does. Dr. Maclagan asserts that it is "not so liable to excite the circulation or effect the nervous system," and Dr. Neligan adds, that "this conclusion is fully borne out by his experience." The patients who have used it under my care expressly state that it did not occasion in them the same headache and vertigo as the quinia had previously done. Its dose is stated at gr. i.—v., three or four times in the day. Neligan directs it made into pill with conserve of roses, or in solution with the addition of a few drops of Acid. Sulph. Arom. The anti-periodic dose may be stated at gr. xv.—xx.

A letter from my friend and former pupil, Dr. H. J. Richards, of Grey Town Nicaragua, of the date of March 25th, 1852, contains the following: "I have used the Bebeerine, as you suggested, with uniform success in quotidian intermittents. I have since had no opportunity to prescribe it in remittents. All the intermittents of this coast

however, are comparatively easily treated at this season, and yield readily to both quinine and arsenic. The remittents and even intermittents of the fall months, are more virulent and often speedily fatal." Those months will certainly furnish a fairer test of Bebeerine; but it is something to know that, under existing circumstances, it produces the same effect as the Quinine.

Dr. Watt of Demarara thinks that it is tardier in its effects than the Quinia, not interrupting the paroxysms so immediately, but he also thinks that its effects are more permanent. The cases in which I have had an opportunity of using it, seem to confirm the latter opinion.

1st. A gentleman residing in Blockley township consulted me in September last concerning an obstinate and constantly recurring tertian intermittent, under which he had labored for a length of time.—He stated that the Quinia always interrupted the disease, but that it inevitably recurred in two or four weeks. I gave him Sulph. Bebeer. drch. ss. dissolved in oz. viij. water, a tablespoonful to be taken every four hours during the apyrexia. The next paroxysm was prevented, and he has had no return of the disease up to the present time (April).

2d. A. J. applied to me in October last, with a very similar statement. While residing in New Jersey, about six years since, he had a violent and protracted "bilious fever," since which time he has had, every month or two, an attack of "intermittent fever," which has been speedily arrested by quinine. Such was his account of the case. I found his tongue furred, his eyes icterode, his breath offensive, his urine scanty and high colored. The anorexia was complete and thirst considerable. He had a daily slight chilliness, followed by considerable fever and a slight sweat. I gave him a mercurial purge and on the next day fifteen grains of the Sulphate of Bebeerine. He complained of some nausea, but no disturbance of the head. The same quantity of Bebeerine was given on the two succeeding days, when, the paroxysms no longer recurring, it was discontinued. He remains free up to this period (April), and says that he enjoys better health than he has done for years.

If the permanent character of effect, which these cases seem to indicate, should be established by a more extended experience, we will have in the Bebeerine an agent of very great value, adapted to cases which have hitherto seemed uncontrollable, except by arsenic, to which there are so many objections. It is also much more speedy in its effects than the arsenic. Bouchardat (Ann. de Therap.) expresses his surprise that the Bebeerine has been so entirely neglected in France, where trial is daily made in agues with substances of inferior efficacy. I trust that the same remark may not long be made with regard to the American profession, but the precise value of the medicine may soon be established by an adequate extent of observation.—*Medical Examiner.*

Treatment of Internal Hemorrhoids.

Dr. I. P. Garvin has recently published a very interesting paper, in which he states that he has treated a considerable number of cases of internal hemorrhoids, some of them very severe and of long standing, by the use of cold water in the following manner;—He directs about a gill of cold water to be thrown into the rectum immediately before *every attempt* to evacuate the bowels, and that this enema be retained several minutes, if possible. This usually produces an evacuation of the fæces, which have been so far softened on their surface, as to permit their escape without the least straining or irritation.—After every evacuation, it will be proper to use ablutions of the parts, more especially in such cases as are attended by some protrusion of the bowels. The treatment is to be continued until some days after all uneasiness is removed. In old or very severe cases, to effect such amendment generally requires several weeks. It is highly important to impress upon the patient the absolute necessity of perseverance in the use of cold water, even though he should be so far relieved as to feel *almost* well, for if it be suspended too soon, a very slight cause will bring on a relapse. So decided is the relief afforded by this treatment, that few persons would be disposed hastily to abandon it, but for the inconvenience of applying it daily. The ordinary apparatus for enemata are so unwieldy, that they cannot be carried about conveniently. All difficulty from this source may be obviated by the employment of a small pewter syringe with a ring handle to the piston. One which will hold two ounces is very convenient, and may be carried in the pocket when necessary. When such enemata of cold water fail to procure sufficient alvine evacuations, the quantity of fluid may be increased to half a pint, or it may be necessary to resort to mild laxatives. Active purgation must be carefully avoided. The patient should be advised never to aid the natural expulsive action of the bowels by straining.—*Southern Med. and Sur. Jour.*

Extirpation of the Uterus with the Ovaria.

BY DR. MARTIN.

Dr. Martin reports, in a Bavarian journal, which has been copied in the Gazette Medicale de Paris, the following extraordinary case: Surgeon Z. was summoned to attend a female, who had just been delivered of a child; and after some time he attempted to extract the placenta, and in about a quarter of an hour, he succeeded in abstracting the *entire* uterus with the ovaria! He was carried before the tribunal of Wasserbourg for trial. The woman, in the mean time, pending the trial, *perfectly recovered,* and assisted and gave her evidence at the trial. She preserved her uterus with the ovaria in a jar of alcohol, and produced them in court!

In conclusion, Dr. Martin adds: "Quelque incroyable que paraisse ce cas je pus repondre de sa veracite."

"Si Jupiter mittat sua fulmina quoties homines mentiuntur, exiguo tempore, erit in ermis."—*Ed.*

N. O. Med. & Surg. Journal.

Treatment of Aphonia by Stimulating Inhalations.

BY DR. PANCOAST.

The form of aphonia, here alluded to, is that following no ordinary cold without leaving any perceptible organic lesion in the pulmonary apparatus. The voice is reduced to a faint hoarse whisper, distinguishable only at the distance of a few feet; and a continued attempt to talk, though it gives no pain, becomes quickly attended with a feeling of fatigue, as though there were some obstruction to the passage of air through the larynx. In breathing merely, there is little or no difficulty; as the individuals are capable of undergoing considerable exertion without any unusual signs of fatigue. Having had an opportunity several years ago of observing the movements of the vocal chords in a person who had attempted suicide, and was left with a cicatrised wound opening into the ventricles of the larynx, Dr. Pancoast watched with great interest the play of these vocal chords which were fully exposed to view, and was astonished at their frequent, varied, and extensive movements. From the evidence he obtained with regard to their motion, he was led to infer that this form of aphonia arose from a partial paralysis of the intrinsic muscles of the larynx, to be cured by stimulating them to action. His first case occurred eight years ago. The patient was a healthy young country girl; the aphonia had lasted for six months, resisting all treatment. She was made to inhale chlorine, gradually liberated from chloride of soda or lime, by very dilute hydrochloric acid in a common glass retort.—The inhalation was continued for some minutes, and repeated two or three times a day, according to the degree of irritation produced in the throat and larynx. From the first trial the patient's voice improved, and in three days had become nearly as strong as ever. Two months after her return to the country, another cold was followed by an attact of aphonia, which also yielded to a few inhalations of chlorine vapour. Dr. Pancoast has since treated a case in a medical practitioner, who had tried, among other remedies, repeated applications of strong solution of lunar caustic, without any good effects.—The voice was restored to its natural strength in a week or ten days. He suggests that care should be taken that the chlorine be not developed too rapidly. He believes that it acts merely as a local stimulant, and that iodine, or any other exciting vapour, would produce similar results.—*Trans. of the Am. Med. Association.*

Galium Aparine in Lepra.

BY DR. WINN, TRURO.

"A gentleman, an acquaintance of mine, who had suffered for many years from lèpra vulgaris, for which he had taken all the usual remedies without obtaining the slightest relief, informed me not long since, that he had at length found a remedy for his disease. He told me that it was a wild plant of which he did not know the name, but that he would show me the spot where it grew. On examining the plant,

I discovered it to be the Galium Aparine, which grows so abundantly on the hedges in this country, and is commonly known by the name of cleavers or goose-grass. At the time I saw him he was taking a strong decoction of the plant, and under its use the rash was disappearing rapidly.

"On making enquiries, I find that three other parties have been cured of similar diseases by the same remedy. One of the parties had been discharged from St. George's and also from the Middlesex Hospitals about twenty years since, as an incurable patient. The remedy was introduced here about twenty years since by some German itinerant quack.

"I have not as yet had much experience in the use of this remedy. It appears to act as a mild diuretic, and may be given in large quantities, as it does not produce any injurious effect on the system. I use a decoction made by boiling a large handful of the plant in a quart of water for about twenty minutes. Of this decoction I give three pints daily."—*Medical Gazette.*

Sleep.

No person of active mind should try to prevent sleep, which, in such persons, only comes when rest is indespensable to the continuance of health. In fact, sleep once in twenty-four hours is as essential to the existence of the mammalia as the momentary respiration of fresh air. The most unfavorable condition for sleep cannot prevent its approach. Coachmen slumber on their coaches, and couriers on their horses, whilst soldiers fall asleep on the field of battle, amidst all the noise of artillery and the tumult of war. During the retreat of Sir John Moore, several of the British soldiers were reported to have fallen asleep upon the march, and yet they continued walking onward. The most violent passions and excitement of mind cannot preserve even powerful minds from sleep; thus Alexander the Great slept on the field of Arbela, and Napoleon upon that of Austerlitz.—Even stripes and torture cannot keep off sleep, as criminals have been known to slumber on the rack. Noises which serve at first to drive away sleep, soon become indispensable to its existence; thus a stage coach stopping to change horses, wakes all, the passengers. The proprietor of an iron forge, who slept close to the din of hammers, forges, and blast furnaces, would awake if there was any interruption to them during the night; and a sick miller, who had his mill stopped on that account, passed sleepless nights until the mill resumed its usual noise. Homer, in the Iliad, elegantly represents sleep as overcoming all men, and even the gods, excepting Jupiter alone.

The length of time passed in sleep is not the same for all men: it varies in different individuals and at different ages; but it cannot be determined, from time passed in sleep, relative to the strength or energy of the functions of the body or mind. From six to nine hours is the average proportion, yet the Roman Emperor, Caligula, slept only three hours, Frederick of Prussia and Dr. John Hunter, consumed only four or five hours in repose, while the great Scipio slept

during eight. A rich and lazy citizen will slumber from ten to twelve hours daily. It is during infancy that sleep is longest and most profound, Women also sleep longer than men, and young men longer than old. Sleep is driven away during convalescence, after a long sickness, by a continued fasting and the abuse of coffee. The sleepless nights of old age are almost proverbial. It would appear, that carnivorous animals sleep in general longer than the herbivorous, as the superior activity of the muscles and senses of the former seem more especially to require repair.

Statistics of Muscular Power.

Man has the power of imitating almost every motion but that of flight. To effect these, he has, in maturity and health, sixty bones in his head, sixty in his thighs and legs, sixty-two in his arms and hands, and sixty-seven in his trunk. He has also 434 muscles. His heart makes sixty-four pulsations in a minute, and therefore 3,840 in an hour, and 92,160 in a day. There are also three complete circulations of his blood in the short space of an hour.* In respect to the comparative speed of animated beings and of impelled bodies, it may be remarked that size and construction seem to have little influence, nor has comparative strength, though one body giving any quantity of motion to another is said to lose so much of its own. The sloth is by no means a small animal, and yet it can travel only fifty paces in a day; a worm crawls only five inches in fifty seconds; but a lady-bird can fly twenty million times its own length in less than an hour. An elk can run a mile and a half in seven minutes; an antelope a mile in a minute; the wild mule in Tartary has a speed even greater than that; an eagle can fly eighteen leagues in an hour; and a canary falcon can even reach 250 leagues in the short space of sixteen hours. A violent wind travels sixty miles in an hour: sound, 1,142 English feet in a second.—*Bucke.*

*Carpenter, and other physiologists express the belief that the whole mass of blood passes through the heart once in about three minutes. Allowing that the blood is retarded somewhat in certain organs and tissues, we are safe in saying it all passes through the heart from fifteen to twenty times every hour. *Eds. E. J. of Med.*

Poison Antidotes.—For oil of vitrol, or aquafortis, give large doses of Magnesia and water, or equal parts of soft soap and water.—For oxalic acid give magnesia, or chalk and water. For saltpetre, give an emetic of mustard and water. afterwards mucilages and small doses of laudanum. For opium or laudanum give an emetic of mustard, and use constant motion, and if possible, the stomach pump.—For arsenic, doses of magnesia are useful, but freshly prepared hydrated oxide of iron is best. If frost-bitten, take and rub with spirits of turpentine. For insects taken into the stomach, drink a small quantity of vinegar and salt. For corrosive sublimate, give the white of eggs mixed with water, until free vomiting takes place.—*N. Y. Farmer & Mechanic.*

Animal Electricity.

Electric commotion produced by the Cat and Cow. Discovery of mysterious organs among men and animals.

The presence of electricity in fishes has raised the question whether this property was to be observed in fishes alone and did not extend further in the animal scale. In answer to the observations on that subject we have the experiments practiced by M. Beckeinsteiner of Lyons, (France.) According to that gentleman, obtaining electric commotion from the cat and cow, a phenomena looked upon as very rare, is now very easily realized. But we let Dr. Beckeinsteiner himself explain his experiments.

Experiments made upon cats.—Electric commotion upon cats can be obtained in the following manner and condition:

When the weather is cool and the wind from the North dry, if the cat feels cool, a thing which can be perceived by the partially greasy appearance of the cat's hair—if the experimenter has cool hands, he will take the cat on his knees, will place his left finger on its breast, and will pass his hands, from the neck to tail, along the spinal column. After a few passes, the electric shock will be produced. The shock seems to come from the breast of the cat, across the body of the experimenter and terminates in his other hand placed upon the back of the cat.

Though experiencing much pleasure at these passes, the cat runs off at full speed after the shock, and will hardly suffer the experiment to be repeated until the following day, when the disagreeable sensation will be partially forgotten.

One day I have obtained, with much trouble three commotions from a cat. The last one was very weak. After each discharge the cat seems fatigued, and exhausted: he lays down in an outstretched attitude. A few days after it loses its appetite—becomes sad and seems to avoid the place it was formerly attached to; it withdraws from the persons to whom it had been attached, and after refusing nourishment, it still drinks water from time to time, languishes more and more, foams at the mouth and generally dies within the first fortnight which follows the first commotion.

I have repeated these experiments during various years, when the season was propitious, upon tame cats in my possession, and also upon those of my neighbors, who believed that I was merely caressing their cats. Some time after, I have always learned, these animals had perished without any apparent causes.

Experiments upon a cow.—I have made it once only. A cow was tied in the open air, to an iron bar; the soil was frozen. I made passes upon her back with my right hand, whilst I was keeping my left upon its breast; after a few passes, I obtained so strong a commotion, that I was thrown upon the ground. I am not aware whether my fall resulted from the shock or from the surprise, as it happened to the first experimenter with the Leyden vial, who exagerated so much its effect, that he confessed he would not, for any price, renew the trial. The cow seemed to be very angry, and would, I be-

lieve, have gored me, if I had come within its reach; but I was not desirous to repeat the experiment. I did not know whether the cow was sick or not, as it was sold a few days after to a butcher.

I could never obtain a single discharge from the dog. I have tried many a time, and with success, upon the rabbit. It ordinarily dies on the same day.

In support of the experiment I have just reported, there is an *a priori* argument;—there is very little probability that such a property as that the electric fishes are endowed with, should be confined to five or six animals. That this property assumes among them a particular form; that its development, under that form, may not occur anywhere else; and may only be manifested under certain conditions proper to them, is very probably the case; but that there is not to be found in the animal kingdom, any traces of the phenomena presented by the fishes, must be doubted until the contrary be proved.

One will say that if this property was more generally distributed than observation indicates, it would have already been ascertained. The argument has but little value. There are many important things, before which generations have passed and overlooked, and now, that they have been shown to us, they strike the eyes of everybody.

I suppose that every one well understands the importance of my observations. If M. Beckeinsteiner has not been mistaken, what he has seen in the cat and cow, others may see elsewhere.

M. Beckeinsteiner does not doubt that the efforts attempted in that way, will be followed by success. This results from his belief of the existence of electric organs which are liberally diffused in the animal kingdom.

He believes in the presence of some round corpuscles, traversed by a nervous thread, and formed by concentric lamina of the medullary tissue, separated the one from the other by a slight serous secretion. These corpuscles offer an analogy with the electric apparatus of the torpedo, and have been discovered among many animals. They are equally found in men, rudimental at the beginning of life, dry during old age. They seem only to be in excercise at the active period of life, when vigorous sympathy exists, and when the vital *consensus* is in all its strength. However, the electric nature of these corpuscles is merely hypothetical. Without facts they are nothing. Put into good hands, they may be the starting point for great discoveries.—*Courier des Etats Unis.*

Scalpel-lum.—Perhaps our hydropathic friends are not generally aware that Dixon has scalp(*el*)ed them. Only see!

Sam Patch a Hydropathist.—It is not perhaps generally known to the scientific world, that this distinguished individual was *deeply* impressed with the sublime truths of hydropathy. Indeed he gave the most *profound* evidence of his ideas of its value to the species; he took such *lofty* views of the efficacy of the *plunge* bath, and *dived so deeply* into its *mysteries*, that he never appeared to promulgate his discoveries. Poor Samuel met his death by leaping from Genesee Falls, and was never heard of more; he was truly a High-drop-athist.

Killing, not Murder.

A case of extreme salivation and consequent ulceration, sloughing, and rottenness of the whole mouth, can now be seen near the coffin sign on Webster street. We are informed that the whole side of his face, gums, and jaws, are in one mass of corruption, some of the teeth have been picked out of, and others are still laying in, the corrupted mass.

This child was attacked with bilious fever, and treated by an Old School physician whose name can be learned from the mother of the child, who acknowledges that calomel is the cause of this horrible spectacle, but we are told that this Doctor takes shelter under the garb of that *science*, which a certain Medical Association of Pittsburgh assumes the exclusive privilege to practice, and thereby wards off the approbrium of quackery.

Will the Medical Association of which Dr. Gazzam is President, sustain this murderous quack, which the parent says "has so nearly killed my child, he may as well finish it?"

We are told they will. The child is now dead.—*Eclectic Medical Review.*

Eclecticism and Homœopathy.

BY M. PAINE, M. D., WARREN, O.

In accordance with the spirit of Eclecticism, to investigate all things, and to hold fast to that which is good, I have been testing the merits of Homœopathy in curing diseases, and here is the result of my experiments :—Of ten cases of pneumonia, five of which were treated according to the principles as taught in the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, and five according to the best approved authority of Homœopathy. The average duration of cases treated homœopathically, was fourteen days, with slow convalescence, and in two cases, there is a sequel of the disease which threatens to degenerate into tuberculous diseases of the lungs.

The five treated Eclectically were convalescent on the average, on the 5th day and previous to the 14th, they were entirely recovered, and to all appearance with a sound condition of the lungs. Of the number treated six were adults, and four children, and for general vigor of constitution and other circumstances, I made as impartial a decision as I could, for I commenced the experiments for the sole purpose of testing the fact whether there was any one exclusive sytem of practice more successful, than an appropriate selection from them all. For if Homœopathy is the only pathy, and infinitesimal doses, the only appropriate doses to be administered to the sick, let us have them and abandon all other pathies, and modes of medication ; but it is a fact that Hydropathy, Allopathy, Physopathy, and Homœopathy, will all cure diseases ; it is in accordance with my experience that by sifting them all over, and then by a thorough washing with Hydropathy, we will find some precious metal, not gold ;

but something far more valuable—a scientific Eclectic Practice of Medicine.

I have practiced medicine, according to the principles of Eclecticism, six years. The first three years of my practice was more of an Allopathic character; the number of cases treated per annum, was 1,095, making in the whole 9,855, including the cases treated by myself and partner, Dr. T. G. Horton. Loss in all has been twenty-four cases. To my certain knowledge, exclusivism in all its different forms, has more than doubled this mortality.—*Ec. Med. Jour.*,

Great Academic Discovery.

The science of Vital Statistics has received a new impetus by a venerable member of the Medical Academy. The following is a literal quotation from a series of *printed* resolutions read before them at one of their late meetings; it contains likewise some wholesome but startling cofessions, rather unpalatable however to some of the members, we opine:

" Dr. Batchelder presented the following resolutions:

" *Whereas*, a large portion of the quacks and unprincipled physicians of this city, and it is believed throughout the country, are men who have been graduated *Doctors of Medicine* in some incorporated Medical School, College or Institution; and *whereas*, from the peculiar circumstances of this country, human life and health are of so much importance that they should be entrusted to none of undoubted character and skill; therefore," &c. &c.

Then follows some particular thunder at all sorts of quacks, ending, as usual, in smoke.—*Scalpel.*

Excess of Females in Great Britain.—" In 1841, there were 493,303 more females than males in Great Britain. In 1851, the excess is 550,157. In 1841, the excess of females in the metropolis was 124,367. In 1842, it was 154,429–an increase greater than the whole increase of population would lead one to expect. This growing disproportion of the sexes has lately attracted the attention of philanthropists, and has suggested the scheme of conveying such women as are qualified for it to colonies, where the disproportion is the other way."

Borax in Efflorescence on the Face.—M. Vanoye, in these cases of red spots or efflorescense of the face, so often seen in the young otherwise in good health, states he has found washing them several times a day with Hufelane's formula, a most excellent remedy. It consists of borax two parts, orange-flower and rose-water, of each fifteen parts.—*Bull. de Therap.—Med. Times, Aug.* 9, 1851, *p.* 160.

On Pus in the Urine.

Its Diagnostic value in Diseases of the Genito Urinary System.

The author observes that pus may appear in the urine under difficult aspects:

1st, as an uniform deposite of a pale-white colour subsiding after micturition, but capable of being diffused by agitation. This is pure pus in acid urine.

2dly, mixed with mucus in acid urine, presenting an uniform tenacious yellowish-white deposit, showing irregular pus dics under the microscope.

3dly, after being acted upon by the ammonia of decomposed urine, it appears as a thick, ropy mucus, with some transparency beneath, and exhibiting a super-stratum of yellow opaque pus.

Pure pus may get into the bladder from the bursting of a neighboring abscess, as in the broad ligament in females, or the prostate gland in men; of these the author gives examples.

When pus is mixed with the urine from inflammation of the vesical mucous membrane, a very essential difference is observed. In these cases the urine enters the bladder acid, and becomes mixed with the purulent and mucous secretions of the inflamed membrane. If these are not very abundant the urine remains acid, and is passed so, but on standing soon becomes decomposed, and ammonia is generated, which acts on the pus aud converts it into a thick, ropy mucus. It also combines with the phosphate of magnesia in the urine, and forms the triple phosphate, which either floats on the surface as an iridescent pellicle, or is fixed as prismatic crystals in the mucus deposit.

If, as in paraplegia from injured or diseased spine, the urine is long retained in the bladder, it undergoes certain changes, the deposit takes place in the bladder itself, and the decomposition of the urine next the deposite commences, while the superstratum remains acid. But when the inflammation becomes more intense, and the morbid secretions very abundant, the whole of the urine will become alkaline in the bladder.—*Dublin Quar. Review.*

Mental Excitement.—Bad news weakens the action of the heart, oppresses the lungs, destroys the appetite, stops digestion, and partially suspends all the functions of the system. An emotion of shame flushes the face; fear blanches it; joy illuminates it; and an instant thrill electrifies a million of nerves. Surprise spurs the pulse into a gallop. Delerium infuses great energy. Volition commands, and hundreds of muscles spring to execute. Powerful emotion often kills the body at a stroke; Chilo, Diogoras and Sophocles, died of joy at the Grecian games. The news of a defeat killed Philip the V. The door-keeper of Congress expired upon hearing of the surrender of Cornwallis. Eminent public speakers have often died in the midst of an impassionate burst of eloquence, or when the deep emotion that produced it suddenly subsided. Largrave, the young Parisian, died when he heard that the musical prize for which he had competed was adjudged to another.

EDITORIAL.

National Eclectic Medical Convention.

The Convention met in the College Rooms, Minerva Block, at 2 o'clock P. M., 11th inst., and was called to order by the Vice President, Dr. TILDEN.

Dr. L. C. DOLLEY was chosen Secretary, *pro tem*, and the session was opened by prayer by Rev. Mr. GOODWIN.

The books were opened for the reception of new members, and many names were handed in.

The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year:

President—Prof. C. NEWTON, of Worcester, Massachusetts.

Vice Presidents—JOHN SIMMS, M. D. of Delaware, and A. D. SKELLENGER, M. D., of Ohio.

Recording Secretaries—Prof. S. H. POTTER, of Syracuse, and Prof. L. C. DOLLEY, of Rochester.

Corresponding Secretaries—Prof. J. R. BUCHANAN, of Cincinnati, and Prof. T. COOKE, of Philadelphia.

Treasurer—W. HENDERSON, M. D., of Pittsburgh.

Business Committee—Prof. C. NEWTON, Prof. O. DAVIS and C. B. ROBBINS, M. D., of Rochester.

Prof. DAVIS addressed the Convention, and stated, in the course of his remarks, that from statistical accounts of the names appearing in the lists of Matriculates and Graduates in the several Colleges in our country, it was shown that the average of the latter in Allopathic schools is *one in three* yearly of the entire number of students; while in the Eclectic Colleges in this city and Worcester the average is no greater than *one in eight*, and in the Cincinnati E. M. College *one in six*.

The officers elect took their seats, and the President gave a brief address.

EVENING—Half-past 7.—A Committee, to whom was referred a Report sent in by Dr. W. F. SMITH, of Philadelphia, reported adversely, the ground being taken that the course of Dr. S. was calculated to disgrace the Eclectic profession. Several letters and reports were read and accepted.

WEDNESDAY—8½ A. M.—A committee on Publication and Finances was ordered, and the following members chosen on the same: —Profs. L. Reuben and S. H. Potter, and Dr. E. S. Preston.

Remarks continued by Profs. DAVIS and SITES, on obstetrical practice and the use of instruments, both advocating the propriety of their use early, when necessary, as a means of averting graver dangers.

Reports followed on Medical Statistics, Practice of Medicine, &c. Referred to committee on Publication.

Committee to prepare an Address to the Eclectics in the United States:—Drs. Davis, Newton and Skellenger.

TWO O'CLOCK P. M.—The President appointed the standing committees on Theory and Practice of Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics, Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Dispensatory and Pharmacy, Chemistry, Hydropathy, Med. Statistics, Med. Literature, &c., Comparative Merits of Practices, Physical Diagnosis, and Physiology.

Reports followed, among which Prof. BURNHAM detailed cases of removal of two Ovarian Tumors of large size.

Also a highly interesting paper by Prof. Reuben, upon the new theory of the circulation of the blood. The several reports were referred to the Committee of Publication.

Prof. L. C. DOLLEY, chairman of the committee on *Eclectic Principles*, reported a brief and comprehensive paper, from which we take the following, as fundamental doctrines in the faith of the Eclectic school:

1st.—The maintenance of freedom of thought, and opposition to the restrictive policy.

2nd.—The encouragement of the cultivation of liberal medical science, and the developement of the resources of the vegetable Materia Medica.

3rd.—The employment in Medical Science of the Baconian Philosophy.

4th.—An assertion of the impotency of remedies *per se*, and of reliance on the laws of nature and the vital powers of the patient.

5th.—Basing correct practice only on a rational view of the morbid condition present in disease.

6th.—The exclusion of all *permanently depressing and disorganising agencies*, such as, under the ordinary circumstances of their administration, are liable to injure the stamina of the human constitution. A preference of vegetable remedies, but not an exclusion of the milder minerals.

Report adopted and referred.

An animated discussion on the use of Mercurials followed. Drs. Hadley, Davis, Newton, Reuben, and others, participated in the debate, at the close of which a resolution was passed, re-affirming the Eclectic doctrine of the rejection of the Mercurials in all cases, whether applied internally or externally.

EVENING—7½ P. M.—Several committees reported. Voted that the committee on Publication take measures to publish entire, in octavo form, the proceedings and accepted reports.

A resolution was passed disapproving of the Free Medical movement in Cincinnati, on the ground of its being detrimental to the welfare of other Colleges. Reconsidered and laid on the table. The Convention would not act as Censors of the corporate acts of an Eclectic College.

Convention adjourned to meet at Philadelphia on the 2d Tuesday in May, 1853, at 2 P. M.

The various parts of the country were better represented than we had been led to anticipate, and the business was transacted throughout with much spirit, and an unexpected share of good feeling. We have thought it inexpedient to more than allude thus briefly to the proceedings, as an official report would be altogether too cumbersome for our pages, and full arrangements have been made for its publication in pamphlet form. From the the interest and variety of the communications, reports, etc., we are satisfied that their publication as contemplated, will afford the profession, and our friends generally, a volume of no little value, and we bespeak for it an extensive sale.

Physical Science of the Human Body.

FOR GENERAL READING.—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 212.

4. HYDROGEN.—This element, in a series in which the simple components of the human body are classed, not according to their relative amount, or range of affinities for other elements, but according to their relative *significance* in an organic point of view, naturally takes the *third place*. While CARBON forms the solid basis, as it were, of fat, membrane, flesh, in fact, of all organic substances,—and while OXYGEN is found associated with the former in all these substances, and acting from without becomes at the same time the agent of decomposition in them, HYDROGEN also is found universally to have entered into a sort of *triune* relation with the two last named bodies, and to be, equally with them, essential to the existence of or-

ganized matter, although not generally present in quantities of equally great weight. There is, now, be it remembered, no proper vegetable or animal compound, unless it be a few of the vegetable secretions which, does not contain all three of these elements; although some such compounds have one or more additional simples in them. The symbol of Hydrogen is H.

Hydrogen is a gas, colorless, tasteless, and odorless. It is wholly fugacious to all our senses. But although the eye can never discriminate this from other gases, the *mind* easily does so by a retention of this fact,—*Hydrogen is the lightest substance yet discovered.* Among the more grave and staid Chemicalities, this one would seem well fitted to play the *coquette.* But perhaps that straight-forward and worthy society may feel hurt at the insinuation of its possessing such a member!

This gas is not naturally found *free*, as is Oxygen. Neither does it enter in comparative abundance into the composition of our earth or its aerial investment. Much the larger share of all of it present in the system of our planet, seems to have been seized upon by Oxygen, in the formation of Water. Every *ninth* pound of that fluid is Hydrogen. We at once see that this very light and elusive gas must exist in a state of extreme condensation, to form so considerable a weight in its fluid condition. This gas is not a supporter of combustion, and of course, therefore, not of animal life. It does not consume, but it may be consumed. It is not the devourer, but the devoured. Hydrogen dissolves in, or mingles with water in very small proportions only. Nor, is its presence in that fluid in a free state needful, it would seem; for growing vegetables appear to make no use of this gas in its elementary state, but find it in such compounds as *water*, *marsh-gas*, *ammonia*, *&c.*

5. Water.— When Hydrogen is brought into the immediate neighborhood either of free Oxygen, or of that gas in a compound which readily parts with it, and the Hydrogen at the same time *heated* to a very high temperature, combustion ensues; the gas last named is burned, and a vapor is produced which settles in drops. This is Water. We might therefore term *water* the *ash* of a peculiar kind of fuel; but the analogy would not be strictly correct. It is to Hydrogen what *rust* is to Iron. Being a *protoxide of Hydrogen*, its symbol is HO.

During its combustion, Hydrogen yields a pale, feeble light, but a very high degree of heat. In consequence of its heating powers, and by taking advantage of the property of metals in a *finely divided state* to cause the union of the gases under consideration above, it is now proposed to make use of Hydrogen as fuel for cooking, the warming of rooms, and other purposes, the gas being allowed to escape from a pipe upon an arrangement of thin plates of the metal *platinum*. These instantly glow with heat upon the accession of the gas, probably from the fact that this and Oxygen suffer an extreme degree of condensation on the surface of such plates, and are thus brought within reach of each other's affinities, when union takes place, and

heat is the result. This promises to afford us the prettiest fuel in the world; for the only residue, or ash, left from its combustion, would be pure water, and that in the form of vapor, just enough to keep the heated air moist, and save head-aches and all the unwholesome effects of our stoves and coal-fires! Welcome to Hydrogen fires, say I!—This is no hoax, as too probably was the promise of Mr. Paine to burn the same gas.

The components of Water, when existing in a free state, and mixed, may be caused to unite in various ways. Condensation about thin platinum plates, as mentioned already, or within the pores of the same metal in a *spongy* state, or in a tight cylinder under a sufficient pressure applied upon a piston, will effect this object. So will the application of any form of fire, or a red-hot iron, or the electric spark. *A sufficiently high degree of heat, without the immediate presence of fire, will accomplish the same end;* and this is the means almost constantly employed where Hydrogen already in a combined form burns.—*This* is the means by which the consumption of Hydrogen is kept up in the human system. Let us suppose a case.

ILLUSTRATION.—A man takes in his dinner a given amount of vegetable or animal oil. Now supposing this to be mostly a fluid oil, its composition will be about $C_{50}\ H_{47}\ O_{10}$. The heat of the body induces combustion of this substance as soon as it begins to enter the blood. Of course the burning of a single atom of it will require a definite amount of Oxygen, and will furnish a definite quantum of heat. Suppose the O_{10} already in the compound to retain its hold on H_{10}, out of the H_{47}. These will constitute 10 atoms of water which will float away in the blood, unburned. The remaining H_{37}, will unite with O_{37}, (O being obtained in any quantities through the lungs,) and form 37 new atoms of water, which will also float away in the blood, to escape ultimately as *vapor* through the lungs or skin, or as *fluid* through the kidneys. Meanwhile the C_{50} will require O_{100} to consume it, and will thus produce 50 atoms of Carbonic acid gas, which must pass off and ultimately escape through the lungs or skin. Thus the system derives its heat from Coal, Hydrogen, and other fires, incessantly burning on in every part of the blood and in almost all the solid parts; and thus it comes to be so constantly cumbered with *waste water, gases, &c.*, which it must as constantly throw off; and thus we discover the reason why Man was not made of dry, polished ivory, or some such *elegant* and convenient material, but requires a fluid blood, and such unsightly appurtenances as lungs and kidneys to throw off the refuse material accumulated by his own action! Thus the *builders* of the human system work *under water*, like the little Polypi heaving up coral islands in the ocean.

WATER is probably the most widely diffused compound in existence. Its properties are too well known to require a rehearsal. Its *effects* are not quite so generally known, *experimentally*, as they should be. I speak not now of dirty faces or begrimed linen. These come within the rightful jurisdiction of *mamas* and *laundry-women*. But as a physician, I have a right to remind my fellow-creatures of *dirty blood* and *filthy flesh;* and to hint to them that pure water will wash

J. R. T. of M., Ill.—"I am well pleased with the alterations, or rather the additions you have made. It is a welcome guest to my table and its contents are eagerly devoured, &c."

D. S., M. D. of G., C. W.—"I feel half inclined to try a race for the prize. I herewith send the names of twenty-four subscribers obtained in two days. Next week I will try and give as many more names from our little town, and will endeavor to send you ten new subscribers every week until the 15th day of May; then I expect to make a trip to M., and in the mean time I shall call on you and pay my last year's arrearage for the Journal, and at the same time pay for all of the subscribers who send their names by me."

G. H. P. of R., N. Y.—"I feel amply remunerated for all my trouble, with the valuable matter each number brings to [illegible]. And as the Journal has been continually increasing [illegible] I feel bound to increase my exertions to obtain subsc[illegible]

B. H., M. D. of A., O.—"Enclosed I send [illegible], &c. T[illegible] have received theirs and are all highly pleased. We [illegible] you more. I have lent out all of mine for perusal, [illegible] have heard all are well pleased with them. I am [illegible] this time. It is six years last Nov. since I gave [illegible] an Eclectic in this county. We have now eight[illegible] all permanently located and doing well. There are a[illegible] students going through their preparatory studies, &[illegible]

Dr. H. is one of the workers, and he early learned [illegible] efficiently in extending his influence and practice, when [illegible] circulation of our periodicals by procuring subscribers, [illegible] extra copies taken by himself. With the encouragement [illegible] by a few such friends, we are more willing to make our la[illegible] most as perpetual as those of the far-famed Sysiphus. T[illegible] our brains, and exhaust our vital energies, by toiling in ou[illegible] when others sleep, is far more tolerable when we know that [illegible] bors are appreciated, and that many are co-working with us in [illegible] ing the past medical twilight into noonday glory.

This number closes the subscription year with many of our su[illegible] scribers. We hope to hear from all such forthwith. All [illegible] the Journal with better zest when they have complied with its [illegible] lished terms, and have paid for each volume in *advance*. Come c[illegible] *up* friends, and while we labor unceasingly to make it the most [illegible] ful Medical Journal in the United States, aid us by extending its c[illegible] culation among your neighbors and *confreres*,—pay as well yoursel[illegible] —and great shall be your reward.

L. C. D[illegible]

Notices of Books.

The British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review (*from the publishers.*)—The January number of this excellent quarterly has been received. It is full of valuable matter, both theoretical and practical. Its spirit is highly *liberal and progressive*. The philosophy of Hygiene, as well as of Therapeutics, comes in for a share

of the attention of the first medical minds of the old world, in the pages of each number. Its abstracts of new medical works, which in many cases have not made their appearance in our country, is a truly valuable feature to the medical practitioner or student. This has been termed, and we think deservedly, the "first Medical Review in the world." The number before us contains papers on "Tumors," "Diseases of the Heart," "Diseases of the Respiratory Organs," "Health of Cities," "Anæsthesia," and on Prof. Kolliker's new work on "Microscopical Anatomy," as well as other matters of great interest. But the Review is above compliment; and we only hope that its *light* "may never grow less."

The Review is a reprint by Messrs. S. S., and W. Wood, 261, Pearl St., New York, of whom it may be ordered. Terms: three dollars per annum.

R.

A Complete Treatise on Midwifery, or the Theory and Practice of Tokology; including the Diseases of Pregnancy, Labor, and the Puerperal State, by Alf. A. L. M. Velpeau, M. D. Translated from the French by Chas. D. Meigs, M. D.—fourth American with the additions from the last French Edition, by Wm. Byrd Page, M. D., with numerous Illustrations; Philadelphia. Lindsay and Blakiston publishers, 1852; 8 vo. pp. 652. (from the publishers.)

The well known and deserved reputation of the various writings of Velpeau, the celebrated author of this work, renders it scarcely necessary for us to notice it further than to announce the recent publication of a new edition with additions, etc. From the position, experience, in a word the fitness of the author for the execution of his task, the work is, as we might expect, among the very best expositions of the present state of Obstetrical Science. In this age of progress and research, each day is marked by new wants and we are pleased to see Elementary works on Medicine, though like this excellent in its original classification, clear and explicit, often revised and improved. Velpeau, conscious of this, has brought this edition in most particulars nearer up with the times than any other work with which we are acquainted. The lengthy chapters upon Auscultation, the use of Ergot and other means of assistance which the woman may require in natural labor deserve more than a passing notice. The American Editor has done his task with credit, and the enterprising publishers have also acted well their part, and in thus presenting to the American profession this edition have placed us all under lasting obligations. For sale by E. Darrow.

The Medical Student's Vade Mecum, a Compendium of Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Materia Medica, Diseases of the Skin, Poisons, etc., etc., by George Mendenhall, M. D., lecturer on Obstetrics in the Medical Institute of Cincinnati; member of the American Medical Association, etc. Third edition, revised and greatly enlarged, with two hundred and twenty-four engravings. Philadelphia: Lindsey and Blakiston, 1852, pp. 690. (from the publishers.)

The object of the author in presenting this work is to furnish the Student of Medicine a short and succinct view of the most important facts and principles which engage his attention during his pupilage. A contemporary in noticing the work says. "The opinions of the profession in regard to the utility of works of the above class, are somewhat divided; it has been contended, indeed, that the tendency

of such books is to induce a habit of indolence on the part of students, and a reliance on a mere *outline* as the actual foundation of their knowledge. We are not disposed to deny that there may be a few students who would be thus influenced; but such examples are very rare, and by no means sufficiently numerous to establish a general rule, or to give force to a sweeping objection. We believe, therefore, that a *Vade Mecum*, when used according to the original design, may be made highly advantageous to students, and even to young practitioners. A condensed view of the different departments of medicine will enable a student to *review* his studies with great facility and comparative ease; and the young practitioner can in cases of emergency, speedily refer to the practical departments, when he may not have time or opportunity to consult the more voluminous works. We are constrained to admit, therefore, that a well digested compendium of the different departments of medical science, supplies what would otherwise be a deficiency in the student's means of study." Its great merit consists in its compact form which renders it convenient for hasty reference and review. Having reached within a few years the third edition, is evidence of its high appreciation with the profession heretofore. From its careful revision, enlargement and the addition of numerous well executed illustrations, the sale of the present must be more rapid than of the former editions. A work of the kind embodying the various measures accumulated by the more liberal faith of the Eclectic fraternity is much needed and would meet with extensive patronage. We wish until such appears, for the above work that reception its intrinsic merit deserves.

L. C. D.

Monthly Medical Abstract.

Application of Ice in the treatment of Typhoid Fever.—M. Sandras a French Physician connected with the Hospital Braugan has derived excellent effects from the application of ice in the treatment of typhoid fever. He applies it in bladders to the head to calm the Cephalalgia, and upon the abdomen to destroy its tympanitic tendency, and to obviate ulceration in the small intestines. He applies it in small, pieces mixed with ground flax seed to the abdomen. These applications are removed as soon as the ice dissolves. The relief says M. Sandras, is most prompt, the head symptoms disappear, and the belly shrinks and ceases to be painful. It is recommended to continue these local applications for eight or ten days if the heat or pains persist. Recommends the application of pounded ice over the Epigastrium in the febrile stage of yellow fever, etc.

Old School Medical Society of the State of N. Y.—The next Semi-annual Meeting of this Society is appointed to be held on the last Tuesday in June, in the City of New York, at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at 11 A. M.

Cholera:—A few cases of this disease have occured in St. Joseph, Missouri. It has now broken out again also in Persia.

An Old Resident.—A Physician in Massillon, Ohio, recently removed from the pelvis of a German woman aged 73, a pessary which was introduced for prolapsus uteri in 1811, not having been disturbed for 41 years.

Dilu'e Pyroligneous Acid as a Gargle—Dr. Evans, of the N.W. Med. and Surg. Journal speaks highly of dilute Pyroligneous Acid as a gargle in inflammation of the fauces and tonsils, in chronic inflammation with or without ulceration, and in the sore throat of scarlet fever. A teaspoonful of the acid is to be added to a wineglass of water and the patient directed to gargle the throat frequently with it, its use is not unpleasant; is safe even if used for hours cautiously, and has an additional advantage in removing the fetor of the breath.

Yellow Fever is raging at Bahia with fatal violence.

Freak of Nature.—The Utica Observer relates the following:— On Friday the 7th inst., a post mortem examination was held by Dr. Parkhurst, on the body of the widow of Amos Eddy, aged 77 years, and to the utter astonishment of all present, a full grown child was found, which she had carried for the term of 46 years. It was encased in a sort of bony or cartilaginous structure, except one leg and foot, and one elbow, which were almost entirely ossified.

Nitrous Oxide, as a Revivifying Agent.—Geo. J. Ziegler of Philadelphia from experiments upon dogs, &c., has been led to regard Nitrous Oxide as the long sought desideratum for the resusitation of those suffering from suspended animation either fron the effects of Chloroform, Narcotics or other agencies. He has experimented with Carbonated Hydrogen, Carbonic Acid, Chloroform, Prussic Acid, Aconite, and strangulation by hanging, in all of which he says the most satisfying and gratifying, and to his mind conclusive results were obtained from the vivifying effects of this powerful remedy, the gas was inhaled when possible, and the Nitrous Oxide water was thrown into the bowels. As a general tonic Dr. Ziegler thinks this has proved itself highly useful, and even brings it forward "as a succedaneum in the place of quinia in the numerous difficulties in which it is more particularly applicable."

Poisoning with Oil of Tansey.—Dr. Dalton reported in the last number of the *American Journal of Medical Science* the case of a girl aged twenty one years, who took one ounoe and three drachms of the oil of tansey for the purpose of procuring abortion. She was taken with convulsions in fifteen minutes and died in three hours and a half.

Chloroform in Infantile Convulsioms. Prof. Simpson relates in the *Monthly Journal of Medical Science*, cases of infantile convulsions relieved after various other measures had failed, by chloroform. Of course those acquainted with the worth of Lobelia as an Antispasmodic will not willingly exchange it for Chloroform in most cases of convulsions.

Fistula.—The new and simple method of treating this disease introduced to the profession through the London Lancet by Dr.

Evans, which consists in introducing into the fistulous tract a blunt pointed silver probe, having been previously dipped in dilute nitric acid (one part of acid to one part of water,) seems to meet with general favor among old school journalists. The probes are sometimes made of copper, thus substituting the nitrate of copper for the nitrate of silver ; the probe is allowed to remain about one minute and resorted to as often as circumstances seem to demand. The nitrates of silver and copper thus formed eradicate the callus and excite healthy granulations. This helps sustain the view of Eclectics generally that fistulas can be more effectually treated with caustic than with the knife.

Varicose Veins.—An India rubber stocking is manufactured in Liverpool for the treatment of enlarged veins of the lower extremities, which merits the attention of American Surgeons. By uniform pressure, this supports the vessels without giving any sensation of tightness, or other unpleasant feeling.

Measles.—The Editor of the Ohio Medical Journal speaking of measles says, "within the memory of our oldest inhabitants, the measles have never perhaps prevailed so extensively in Ohio as during the current winter and spring, they were decidedly *epidemic*, lighting down upon whole families and upon individuals, irrespective of age, sex, condition or exposure to the disease. We attended one family of fourteen persons, thirteen of whom with the mother, aged nearly sixty, in the midst, were all prostrated together, and together convulsed—the father only escaping by, "the skin of his teeth."

Progress of the Plague.—The last Boston Medical Journal says, "for some months the Plague has been doing its destructive work in Maderia. More recently the frightful malady has been developed in some of the West India Islands, it will most probably reach the United States, and a great panic will be produced when the first case appears."

Post Mortem Examinations.—The Legislature of South Carolina during its last session, passed a law providing for the compensation of Physicians for *Post Mortem Examinations* when made by request of Coroners, or for legal purposes.

Mercury.—*Very true.*—Dr. James Graves in his Clinical lectures in the Dublin Hospital, says.—"Persons who have taken Mercury *for any disease*, no matter whether it be penumonia, pleuritis or hepatitis, are afterwards subject to periosteal inflammation (inflammation of the membrane covering the bone) and this liability continues not for months, but for years, indeed periostitis is one of the most common effects of mercurialization, particularly if the patient be exposed to cold while taking mercury. In the course of one, two, three, five or even a greater number of years, exposure to a cold. a blow *and other apparently trivial causes* will give rise to periostitis in some individuals"

And what does Prof. Hamilton of the University of Edinburgh, say?—"Practitioners of the first respectability prescribe on every

trifling occasion *Calomel or the blue pill* * * * But when the effects of mercury upon the human body are accurately investigated and duly considered, *it cannot fail to appear that infinite injury must accrue from its use.* And why will they not hear "Moses and the Prophets?"

L. C. D.

Miscellany.

IRREGULARISM IN THE ASCENDENT.—At a meeting of the Allopathist Medical Society of the County of Monroe—quite a piece of land hereabout, including *our* city—"Dr. Armstrong, from the Committee appointed at the last annual meeting,"—so reads the *confession*, as published in *our* daily papers,—"to report the number of persons practicing medicine within the city, presented a list, from which it appears that "the number of *irregular practitioners supported by the citizens of Rochester*, greatly overbalances the number of *regularly educated physicians*"—*supported by the citizens of Rochester!* That is too bad. The Regulars have reason to complain. Shocking ingratitude!—the "citizens of Rochester" wont support them!

We beg leave, however, to propose a few questions for the deliberations of the next meeting of the "Monroe County Medical Society." Was it true forty years ago, or even twenty, that the number of *irregular* practitioners so plainly exceeded that of their rivals?—According to what *law* do the "swarms of quackery" increase, and multiply? Has this increase any direct relation with the *increasing intelligence* of the people? Or do Regulars deny the doctrine of the *progress of the race*, in general, and of *Monroe County and the "Citizens of Rochester,"* in particular? Or do they regard the *increase of quacks*, and the *increase of popular information*, as two disconnected, contemporaneous facts, having no relation of cause and effect, and only accidentally present in the same age, and within the limits of the same city of Rochester? "I pause," but not "for a reply." The "Monroe County Medical Society" is an "*old* bird," and pretty considerably *up to chaff.*

I beg leave to suggest to that Society,—notwithstanding, that if they decide adversely on the question of the Progress of the Race, even Dr. Digg and dame Partington are against them; if they decide that the city of Rochester does not keep pace with the general advancement, they will have all the "choice spirits" in the corporation in their hair; but if they decide that two facts, each universal, and one always keeping pace with the other, are not connected by some link of cause and effect, then we must demand of them to new model the antiquated system of Baconian logic, so that syllogisms may henceforth read "regularly" and conduct the reasoner to "regular" truths. Such is the trilemma. It is hopeful our friends may experience only the softest horn of the three!

MEDICAL GRADUATES.—At the recent commencements of the different medical schools in Philadelphia, 484 young men received their diplomas. So say the Pennsylvania papers. The old physician's

motto, "*Deo adjuvante,*" which he painted on the panel of his carriage, was facetiously translated, "God help the patient!"—but may the public be helped, when "484 young men" with medical weapons are let loose on the community together!—*Boston Post.*

Doctors, Mr. *Post*, follow the general rule; they must all be young once. If these "484 young men" have all been faithful students, are all industrious and conscientious, and in a truly liberal spirit go forth to gather all extant science, and then scatter it freely with the addition of a few gems to the previous store, the public will never complain, nor will you or I.

Death of Dr. Alcott.—Dr. Alcott, well known in the literary world, died very suddenly, at Springfield, Mass., on the 29th of April, last. His health had been poor from early youth, and gradually failing for the past two years. The reading community will experience the discontinuance of the Doctor's excellent series of books, with sorrow.

Transactions of the National E. M. Association, 1852.—Arrangements have been made with Erastus Darrow of this city to publish the transactions. The work will be got up in good style, with good type and paper. We hope our friends will send in immediately the Reports solicited of them by the National Convention. The work will be an ornament to the library of every Reformer, and none of them we believe, will willingly dispense with it. The exact cost cannot yet be ascertained, as we are unable to judge of the length of some of the Reports which are retained to be revised by the authors. It will not however exceed *fifty cents*. The transactions will be published as soon as the amount of work to be laid out on the document can be performed.

Departure.—Our friend and co-worker, Prof. O. Davis, leaves this city to spend the summer at the Cuba Water-Cure, Allegany co., N. Y., in which he takes the post of Physician. He does not by so doing sever his connection with C. M. College. From the fidelity and favor with which he has labored in this station for some years past, and the familiarity he must have acquired with the diseases of females and children, as well as with Chronic Diseases in general, we predict for Dr. D. a large degree of success. He has our best wishes in his new relation.

Pennsylvania Medical College.—We learn from an editorial in the May No. of the "Medical Examiner," Phila., that the Faculty of the above Institution have received an accession in the persons of Drs. F. G. Smith, J. M. Allen, and J. J. Reese, who take respectively the chairs of *Institutes of Medicine*, *Anatomy*, and *Medical Chemistry* and *Pharmacy*. "The high personal character and professional standing of the gentlemen named," says the Examiner, "cannot but give strength and popularity to any school with which they are connected.

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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

The Character of the Physician.

An Address.—Continued from page 228.

BY PROF. P. C. DOLLEY.

There are a few other traits in the character of the physician, which, it seems to me, should be developed as early as possible, and which I will now present.

The first is, *decision* and *energy* of character. Any man is a poor thing who is driven about by casual impulses from within, and influences and circumstances from without, without a balance wheel of decision and energy to force an attempted movement through.

But the Physician above all others should have the power and habit of conceiving quickly, and executing promptly, and that too from the forces within himself. A physician who is hesitating and constantly looking at the embarrassments which encumber him and which seem to have all accumulated in his path, has his mind so obscured and diverted from the proper object of his thoughts, that he can neither reason correctly upon a question, nor do justice to himself, for his forces are divided and weakened. His love of approbation may check him here, his timidity prevent him there, his faith be so wanting in another place, and his hope in still another, that although numerous good practical ideas and plans are passing through his mind, he never executes, loses confidence in himself and others lose confidence in him. Such a man cannot possess himself, for he has forced himself into the narrow circumference of an *if*—and

his whole forces will depend upon casualties, and *if* he accomplishes any thing, it will be because the astrological horoscope is auspicious to the *ifs*, *not because* of the indomitable energy of purpose which laughs at *ifs* and scorns the idea of *changes*. We have not time to analyze the influences most favorable to the production of this kind of character, but will mention one or two points of importance.

And first, if you would acquire this character, you *must love* the profession upon which you have entered. No man will succeed in any avocation unless he is devotedly attached to it. He should love it with all the ardor of a first affection, and be married to it, and he will then find that his attachment will strengthen every well defined purpose, and all labor will be performed with alacrity. Nothing so dampens a man's executive powers, as a dissatisfaction with his occupation, and nothing seems to quicken them more than an active zeal in its pursuit.

Another essential to the proper cultivation of this character is a clear and comprehensive knowledge, and a close and concise manner of reasoning upon subjects upon which judgments are to be passed.

For the accomplishment of this, a long course of cultivation is necessary. The physician should be in the habit of uniting his attention upon a subject, of selecting and arranging facts, drawing conclusions and estimating probabilities in their consecutive order, with perfect promptitude; and just in proportion as he can do this, will his decision and energy of character be enhanced.

In a word, we cannot express ourselves better than in the language of the eccentric Crockett—"Be sure you are right, *then* go ahead!"

"When can you be ready to start on your tour to the interior of Africa?" said a London official to the celebrated Ledyard. "*To-morrow*," was the almost *executive reply*. "What shall I do for my dyspepsia?" said a tobacco-chewing American to Abernethy. "Pay me my guinea and I will tell you." The guinea paid—"Stop squirting your saliva upon my carpet, and save it to masticate your food with," was the prescription. I would not recommend an absolute sternness that knows no bending—for this implies a perfection of understanding—but rather the cultivation of a refined sensibility which can readily feel the force of an opposing truth, and so enlightened that it cannot readily be duped by an opposing error. It is that rare quality or endowment of mind, which enables one to preserve "an *immovable heart*" when required, amidst the causes of the most subduing emotions—"while at the same time it is tremblingly alive to the gentlest of *truthful* impressions"—that I would have you possess.

The nerve that never falters—the eye that never wanders or blanches—the soul that never forgets the dignity of its being, or the nobleness of its aspirations, shall surely conquer and overcome every obstacle.

Another essential to the proper development of the character of the physician is courtesy. His every day life brings him into circumstances where expressions of generous feeling and sympathy are loud-

ly called for, and when bestowed, call forth expressions of the warmest gratitude.

Mental influences have much to do with the health, and the physician who would most effectually control disease will most faithfully study every secret avenue to the mind and heart, and be able to control their frequent excesses.

The physician who is most courteous, will the first secure attachment and confidence, and he who most effectually gets these, other things being equal, will the most successfully control disease.

Were there no other object than the enhancement of his own personal interests, it would be important for him to cultivate this virtue. But when we come to add to this the principle of truth and essential good, which underlies this mark of character, we see far more substantial reasons for its cultivation.

What is true courtesy and from what does it spring? It is nothing less than the most elevated part of man addressing itself to whatever is noble in his neighbor; hence its language must be that of truth, and gentleness, and refinement. In taking your position in the world as Reformers—those who would modify public opinion, and call attention to what you consider abuses—you will sustain antagonistic relations to those physicians who adhere to the "old opinions." Now what shall be your conduct towards them? "Why, set yourself up in defiance of them and all their infernal influences," says some pugnacious adviser. But just hold a minute. If you strike a man he will put himself in an attitude of defense, and while in the striking posture it may occur to him to try his hand upon your physiognomy; and if he be the better dabster in this kind of expression of civilities, it is a chance if he does not make you see your *moral* position more clearly, by so operating upon the external *eye* as to prevent any just appreciation of the *physical!*

At least an appeal has been made to the baser part of the man, and if a base response is not given, it is because he has himself under control, and in that case you have voluntarily taken your place beneath him, and acknowledge him your superior.

The man who is always courteous will necessarily have an advantage over others—let the return be as it may—for if it call forth an expression of the same courtesy he has the advantage of being first upon the ground; but if it meet with a base return, he has the advantage of occupying the most elevated position. Be courteous then to the unfortunate, the desponding, and the sick, to your enemies and your friends, and you shall bless them by a cheering and heavenly influence, and you shall be blessed and rewarded in return by the attainment of those ennobling endowments which characterize the great and good.

In connection with this I can hardly omit an expression in regard to dignity and self possession. True courtesy does not imply as is frequently supposed, a slavish submission or sneaking dependence, but on the contrary it raises a man far above either. Of all the habits of mind which are calculated to aid the physician, self-possession stands first, for it is a kind of summing up of the whole, with an ad

dition. What is self-possession? I may first be permitted to say what it is not. The man who allows himself to be agitated at the bed-side, so as to falter in his opinion or prescription, or allows himself to be changing and versatile with a patient, is not self-possessed; for he does not reason calmly, form conclusions correctly, or act vigorously.

The man, who, in consultation with other physicians, does not or cannot form a definite opinion of a disease, and its proper treatment, and so express it, or is daunted by the presence of others, is not self-possessed, for he allows others to do what he was called upon to perform, and suffers his own mind and opinions to be led by others.

The man who forgets himself in any place, or in any circumstances lets his judgment, affections, designs, or habits be swayed improperly, is not self-possessed. Self-possession implies the exercise of all the perceptive, reflective and moral being, and a perfect control of each. It makes a man move from forces within himself, while all exterior influences are made subservient to his use, and enables him to be calmly busied with his own object, let the storm of passion or interest rage ever so violently without. We trust each of you will seek to cultivate this virtue in yourselves, and put it in daily practice.

From what has already been said you can easily conceive what I shall have to say upon one other characteristic, viz., industry. Idleness in the physician who has so much to accomplish for himself and so much to do for others,—and all of it, too, labor of so important a character, would be as much out of place as Falsehood in the home of Truth.

But in estimating the great amount of labor before you to be performed, it will not answer for you to get discouraged and shrink from it through a childish apprehension of a want of capacity or power to reach the highest point of attainment. Never let yourself say "I can't."

By a wise arrangement of nature, we are obliged to acquire truth by littles, in order that it may be digested, assimilated and appropriated to our mental systems.

In this way a Humboldt, from beginnings quite as small as yours or mine, kept accumulating, and toiling, and strengthening, till finally the whole world was made contributor to his mighty genius.—Carpenter, Muller, Velpeau, Watson, Wood, Mott, and the host of names, the mention of which now strikes a dread over the minds of students, were once beginners like you,—once felt all the dread and doubts you now feel. But, by a persevering industry, obstacle after obstacle has been overcome, till they can no longer look up to any higher than themselves. Could we but rightly interpret the voices around us, we should find that they were constantly speaking to us words of encouragement. The great have become so by their own efforts, and we have the key to their success, and the same powers to help us on that aided them. The fact that the accumulation cannot all be made at once, is rather favorable than otherwise. Among all the tribes of useful plants, we find but few of *mushroom* growth,

and the fate of Jonah's gourd, affords the best possible illustration of the end of those who like it would arrive at maturity in a single night.

If the coral polype as it floats along the ocean's bed, could but look up and comprehend the vastness of the reefs above, which have been built by just such little insignificancies as itself, it would doubtless sink down in despair;—but instead of this, it soon anchors itself to a rock, and unmindful of wind or wave, of its own littleness, or the greatness of things that surround it,—it commences its labor of gathering particles from the surrounding elements, till time and effort have piled up these little atoms into a mass, that astonishes the world by its greatness. There are thousands of examples like these which happily illustrate the certain success of persevering toil. Everything around you and within you is waiting to contribute to your advancement, and nothing is wanting but for you to gather up your energies, and address yourselves to your labors with unwavering faith and unflinching perseverance, and rich rewards—such as a consciousness of spending a life of usefulness, and dwelling amid the richness of the scenes of a higher life, will certainly attend you. In order to accomplish this, all courses tending to the development of idle habits which physicians frequently form, should be avoided and shunned.

Show to the bar-room lounger that you choose and have far pleasanter company, and that you have a much more desirable stimulus than the fumes of his tobacco and rum, and the senseless twaddle which accompanies them.

In short let every habit, of labor, amusement, &c., be a model for the community around you, and you will not want for good society, even at your own door; and the habit of going to Loafer's Hall to pass away your time, will appear as despicable as those baser ones of gambling, drinking, &c., so frequently resorted to by those who frequent such places. But I have already dwelt too long. Allow me to add that when you shall have cultivated these virtues and capacities thus briefly marked out, together with others of a kindred nature, and so appropriated them to your own use as to make them felt and acknowledged by the world, your SUCCESS will be complete, and our wishes in your behalf, fully realized.

Panama Fever.

BY. I. S. SMITH, M. D.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—I have received your valuable Journal. All that I can do for it, will be done. I ask no pay; I am as willing now as ever to put on the whole armor for the great cause of suffering humanity, although I had almost concluded to step back into the shade, and let other luminaries spread the truth through the world.

As there is at this time much travel to California, and much interest felt in all that relates to a journey thither, with your permission,

I will take from my journal from time to time, cases of disease that came under my medical and surgical care during my visit to that section.

I will give two cases of what is called Panama Fever. This might be correctly termed Bilious-Typhus. It resembles Yellow Fever, but is more alarming.

December 10, 1850, the steam ship Northerner left Panama. At this time it was very sickly on the Isthmus, and especially at Panama.

1. James Smith, aged 30 years; came on board, a robust man and a moderate drinker, sick. Had a bad pain in the head and back: skin yellow, head very hot, tongue red on the edges, middle dark brown, and furred; pulse full and hard; but he complains of great debility; bowels costive; urine scanty and dark, dirty yellow. Patient very restless, moving from place to place, and a little delirious, with slight moanings. Gave Castor Oil and soon followed with an enema. After the operation he felt better; then gave 5 gr. Dover's Powder.

11th. This morning he was better; gave 3 gr. Dover's Powder, with 2 of Quinine. This day he exposed himself for a long time to a current of damp wind.

12th. Vomiting and purging; cold hands and feet; urine rather thicker; great pain in the Epigastrium. Gave drops composed of oil cloves, camphor, opium, and cayenne; cataplasms to the hands and feet. Night: better.

13th. Feels better, but turns as yellow as saffron; some fever. Gave nitrate of potash, 2 gr.; dover's powder, 2 gr. Being weak, gave porter, and Tr. golden seal. At night a little better.

14th. A brown spot on the cheek made its appearance, (this being one of the worst symptoms,) quite delirious, and groans aloud. Being asked how he felt, the universal answer was, "feel pretty well; only weak." Continued the porter. At night found him very much debilitated: grown brown to-day, weak.

15th. Worse. The yellow skin turns more brown; groans very loud: no urine: delirious.

16th. Very weak and restless; gave dover's powders and brandy.

17th. In the night, he died.

2. John Gray, taken the 10th, with fever; pain in the head and back; debilitated, dry and brownish red tongue; delirious and restless; pulse, 110, wiry; very thirsty, brown spot on the cheek; very dark and scanty urine. Gave castor oil; after operation, gave carbonate of ammonia, and dover's powders, with asclepias tuberosa tea, for a drink.

11th. Little better, but delirious.

12th. Gave an enema, and a tepid bath.

13th. Worse; very delirious; brown spot rather darker; blistered the back of the neck and the feet, and continued the drink.

14th. Much better; urine more free; brown spot not so large, but the patient was very much debilitated; bowels still costive; gave cas-

ter oil, at night some better but weak and restless; gave 3 gr. dover's powder, gr. 2 quinine.

15th. Much better.

16th. No fever; gave porter and quinine, 5 gr. nitrate potash.

17th. Still better. Brown spot about gone; sits up in bed; ordered nourishing diet.

23d. Discharged, well

It is to be remembered that at sea it is often impossible to get the kinds of medicine one may desire; and the patients are constantly worried by the heaving of the ship, which is sometimes so great as to throw them out of bed. Many comforts they are deprived of that can be had in ports.

At another time I may speak of the exciting causes of this formidable disease.

Detroit, June, 1852.

Hydrochloric Acid, as a Remedy.

BY G. W. DAVIS, M. D.

I propose in a few brief remarks to call the attention of practitioners to the article, Hydrochloric Acid, as being a valuable remedial agent in the treatment of many forms of disease, especially in derangements of the stomach and bowels, and to give the result of its employment in my own practice. I regard it as a valuable tonic and astringent,* always operating promptly and kindly, and with perfect safety to the patient, when other remedies have failed to produce the desired result. In nearly all derangements of the digestive organs, where there is a debilitated and relaxed state of the tissues, or a preponderance of alkaline secretions, and not attended with febrile or inflamtory symptoms, I have found the muriatic acid to act with a promptness and certainty not to be met with in any other article.

The first case which induced me to prescribe the acid, was that of a lady, who, six months previous to my seeing her, had an attack of acute dysentery, and had passed the ordeal of the "hard-ware" system of practice, and came out not unscathed, but, with mucous discharges of the bowels, occurring from 6 to 12 times a day. The patient was very much emaciated by the continual drain from the system, with loss of appetite, thirst, dryness of skin, and all the symptoms common to chronic dysentery.

The usual remedies employed in such cases were used for some length of time, with but little if any improvement, when I concluded to try the acid, as an experiment.

One drachm of the commercial acid was diluted with half an ounce of water, and the patient directed to take 20 drops in a half gill of

* Pereira, Vol. 1, page 269, considers this article a laxative. He says it is "tonic, refrigerant, and diuretic" and it "loosens the bowels." In cases of chronic diarrhœa ulceration following typhus, &c., we may suppose that its Anti-septic and Antalkaline properties, and the aid it affords in digestion, account for its good effects.—Eds.

sweetened water every sixth hour. This soon lessened the frequency of the discharges, created an appetite, and in a very short time produced a marked improvement in all the symptoms. The acid was continued for several weeks, but only in sufficient quantities to control the action of the bowels till they recovered their usual tone, and resumed their accustomed regulariity. No other remedy was used and the patient enjoyed a rapid convalescence.

Since using the acid in the above case, I have prescribed it in a large number of cases of chronic dysentery and diarrhœa, besides in many other affections, as thickening and ulceration of the mucous coat of the alimentary canal; enlarged tonsils; acid eructations; ulceration of Brunner's and Peyer's patches in typhus; colliquative sweats, &c.; and in my hands the result has been highly satisfactory.

I regard the hydrochloric acid as being far preferable to sulphuric or nitric, in cases where an acid is indicated.

From a somewhat extensive experience with the *muriated tincture of iron*, I am inclined to the belief that in some cases it would be preferable to the diluted acid, especially in those cases where the ferruginous preparations are admissible.

Syracuse, May, 1852.

Eclecticism and Exclusivism.

BY M. M. RODGERS, M. D.

What is Eclecticism? It means, selecting from various systems and sources, such *principles* as are considered sound and correct, without being limited to any speciality or exclusive theory. In *medicine*, it means selecting from various exclusive systems of practice, such as Homœopathy, Hydropathy, Botanicism, Uroscopia, &c., all such principles as are well established, and applying them in practice.

Who, then, are the Eclectics? (1.) Certainly those who draw from all the fields of science, from all systems, and from all the kingdoms of nature, *all* substances and resources by which disease can be cured or alleviated; those who reject no truth, and refuse no useful remedy.

The "old school," or rather the *only school* of medicine, embraces the teachings of all true science, and is not a system founded upon narrow or exclusive theory.

Who, then, are the *exclusives?* (2.) Certainly, not those who accept all medical truth, but those who *reject* certain well established principles and practices; those who reject and condemn certain remedies, such as mercury, arsenic, antimony, venesection, &c., and confine themselves to exclusive means and medicines.

But here arises a question, (which we shall not attempt to discuss,) as to what is *true*, and what is *erroneous* in our creed.

If a very small minority of the members of a church take exception to certain articles in the creed, and then recede and form a new church, which excludes the offensive articles—who are the "exclusives," and who are the "liberals?" (3.) And does the secession prove

the majority to be infidel or heretical? Does it not rather lead to the supposition that the schismatics are in error? and must the majority be forced to follow them and adopt the new faith, or be denounced as hypocrites or fools? or shall they be deprived of the right to enjoy their own humble convictions, until honestly convinced of error? What matters it that a proposition is true or false, so far as the public is concerned, so long as not one in a million *knows* the truth in the premises?

Now the "old school" does not wish to steal the "new school's" thunder, or adopt its name; but still it does not intend, quietly, to renounce all claims to correct science, so long as it furnishes to the "new school" all the scientific discoveries which it has to use in building up its speciality.

The term "old school," is applied to the regular profession, *apparently* in order to mislead the public, and give the impression that our school is not only *old*, but that our practices are injurious, and our theories obsolete.

True, we *are old*. We date our origin from an epoch more than twenty-three centuries gone; but we are also *modern*. We embrace in our creed all the discovered facts from Hippocrates to Priessnitz, and still our system is, like all others of human origin, imperfect; together with much truth, we have at times mingled error. While the blaze of science is constantly dispelling the gloom of medical chaos, new facts are clustering about the poles of our system, and arranging themselves into a beautiful, harmonious and symmetrical whole.

Thus, at some future period, though far distant beyond our time, the world may behold a *triune creation*, consolidated from *discovery*, *theory* and *practice*. The science and practice of medicine will then embrace as few questionable dogmas as mathematics, or any other science. Physicians themselves shall then no longer confirm the people in their medical skepticism, by contending about creeds which all may know to be true.

Rochester, May, 1852.

REMARKS.—When the various medical *isms* of the day will consent to meet on open ground, and for fair discussion, *our prognosis* in the case of *suffering humanity* will be easily made, and we may as well say, it will be very favorable! An interchange of views, and an overhauling of old platforms, may prove profitable business for all parties. Those who are in the right, will feel it highly advantageous that the fact should become more generally known, while those who are in the wrong will be very ungrateful if they do not as heartily rejoice to be set right! We look upon the above article as one of the hopeful signs of the times. But as we, no less than our Allopathic brother, and brethren generally, have come upon the stage with sundry streaks of *individuality* in our composition, they, the brother and brethren aforesaid, will hardly think it strange if we dif-

fer with them. A few thoughts, then, upon the passages marked in the foregoing article.

1. "Who are the Eclectics?" An Eclectic is one who *selects*. He not only *takes* remedies to relieve the sick, but he *takes, with his eye on a principle*. He chooses, guided and controlled in his choice *by* a principle. We call ourselves Eclectics. We have no objection to our Allopathic brethren taking the same appellation, provided they will but confess and promulgate the difference between them and us, and between their eclecticism and ours. They *are* eclectic—guided by the principle of PRESENT SUCCESS *in their attempts at healing the sick*. *We* are electic—guided by the principle of the GREATEST ULTIMATE GOOD *to the patient we would heal*. Their eclecticism is the selection of every agent that will cure. Our eclecticism is the selection of agents enough for all purposes of cure, without any admixture of such as are equally or more likely to do present or ultimate harm. They use destroying agencies, poisons, what not, to effect a purpose now. We use the safest effectual means to be had, to establish a fund of constitutional power that may last for life. Theirs is an *indiscriminate appropriation*, limited only by the range of *science;* ours a *discriminate selection*, controlled by the demands of PHILANTHROPY.

We admit therefore that our "old school" friends are Eclectics as well as ourselves; but we are Eclectics "with a variation." And we cannot but feel like exclaiming, as did a certain pious deacon when a certain exciting subject was under consideration in the good pastor's sermon, "Bless God for the variation!"

2. "Who are the exclusives?" All of us, Doctor. Not one can escape. The Homœopathist is exclusive; he sweeps the board of all your gross pharmacopœia, and subscribes to nothing stronger than "mother tincture," but he doats on the virtues of *Lachesis*, the poison of rattlesnakes! The Allopathist is exclusive; he despises the whole generation of "pellets," and religiously abominates Lachesis; but he knows of nothing that will give so beautiful a "fillip" to the liver as *Hydrargyrum*, the great Quack's invention—abused mercury. The Eclectic is exclusive; he aims to walk in the straight and narrow way between "*moonshine*" and "*murder*," and of course excludes every agency that savors of either. And so I might go through the list of the isms. But softly, Doctor, this is not the exclusivism we complain of. We are shut out from *equal rights*. When we ask charters and colleges such as others no better than ourselves have received, our officious brethren get up a remonstrance, go to the legislative halls and oppose and thwart us, as if we were not men, and as if they who

had the impudence to employ us, if they forfeit their lives on account of our lack of medical science, pay but the fitting penalty with the lives they lose. And yet, Doctor, none of our students can study in your offices, for here private feeling debars them; nor can they graduate in your colleges, for there a wide and well known *conspiracy*, dignified with the title of an act of the "American Medical Association," meets and menaces them with certain failure. And what is all this? equal rights? the opportunities of men? the privileges of freemen? No; it is the "exclusivism" of which *we* sometimes have occasion to speak and write!

3. The gist of the Doctor's argument here, is, that they who secede from the church are "exclusives," while they who "walk in the old paths," are the genuine "liberals." Admit this doctrine, and what follows? Why this follows—That the Church of England is an improvement on Methodism, because it is more liberal than the latter, and that, for the same reason, the *Romish Church* is an improvement on the Church of England; the doctrines of the *Pharisees* and *Sadducees* an improvement on Romanism, and *Antediluvian Paganism* the true church, and most *liberal* depository of divine truth on the earth! Well, we always suspected the Doctor and his compeers of a leaning toward the "good old days of Adam and Eve," but we did not expect to see it so frankly avowed.

Other points might be considered, but we do not wish to "darken counsel." We have made three points, and leave them open for discussion and criticism: 1st. That our Eclecticism is based on Philanthropy. 2d. That the Exclusiveness we complain of, is another name for Tyranny. 3d. That Liberality, in the estimation of our opponents, is a virtue in which the primitive races of men excelled, but which is dying out in the world in a constant ratio with the progression of the human family! B.

Superiority of Eclectic over Allopathic Treatment.

BY DR. T. G. HORTON.

The results of treatment in the following case show a decided superiority over those of Allopathic practice:

Some six weeks ago I was sent for to visit Mrs. B., who was laboring under Typhoid Pneumonia. She had been given over, or pronounced incurable, by several respectable and experienced Allopaths, one of whom had been in attendance with her from the commencement of the attack, but who finally declared her beyond the reach of any remedies he possessed or knew of.

When I first saw her, the more intense degree of inflammatory action had subsided, and the disease had in a great measure expended itself in effusion. There was a complete suppression of the expectoration, and the respiratory organs were evidently unable to effect its expulsion without the intervention of art.

On performing auscultation, I discovered a mucous bubbling rhonchus, (rattle,) which extended to the larger bronchial tubes and trachea, and this was audible even to a by-stander. There was nowhere discoverable any healthy respiratory murmur. There was the most extreme debility, short quick respiration, pulse 125, small and thready. I did not give any encouragement to the friends, but told them that my system of practice promised relief, if there was any for her. I immediately made a prescription from various concentrated remedies of vegetable origin, which an Eclectic practitioner should never be without, and told them that the next morning would probably furnish evidence upon which I could base an opinion. The next morning found her expectorating *freely*, a glairy, viscid mucus, or lymph; and to my own surprise, her symptoms were all more favorable. I visited her 5 or 6 times, and she continued rapidly to improve. She has now entirely recovered with the exception of a mercurial sore mouth, which she had when I first saw her. She was evidently under the *specific action of mercury*, yet at the same time her physician, who gave it to her, despaired of her life. Strange!

Since my return from your thriving city, and highly worthy Institution, the past spring, Dr. Paine, my partner and former preceptor, and myself, have been successful in restoring many cases pronounced *hopeless* by the Allopaths. Among the diseases under which the patients were laboring, I may mention one or two cases of PHTHISIS PULMONALIS, the restoration of which we must attribute, in a considerable degree, to the salutary effects of the *Phosphate of Lime*.

Our success is fast superseding the Allopathic fraternity in this section in the treatment of diseases, (and *they* are our principal competitors, as Homœopathy and Hydropathy here act so feebly as scarcely to call for re-action,) and we are bound to hasten the dissolution of their system, and that within a few years at the most, unless they shall repent, reform, do their first works over again, and undertake a new and more successful mode of practice. This too, is the opinion of the people.

Warren, O., June, 1852.

SELECTIONS.

On the Nature and Treatment of Epilepsy.

[The following discussion on an important disease took place at a meeting of the Medical Society of London on the 10th of April.]

Dr. Radcliffe then read a paper on this subject. He first drew attention to the *temperament* of epileptics, and showed that this was

distinguished by unequivocal marks of weakness and depression; signs of scrofula or some other cachectic disposition, of depressed and feeble circulation, or defective nervous activity, of muscular feebleness, might always be detected, but never the signs of true plethora or of hyper-activity in the nervous or any other system. When epilepsy had shown itself in persons distinguished by their genius and talent, it was in the state of exhaustion induced by the excercise of that genius and talent; when it was associated with insanity, the convulsive disorder coincided with the intervals of depression, and never with the periods of quasi-excitement. After describing the phenomena of epilepsy, he proceeded to point out the continuance of the same signs of depression and exhaustion, and to show that the change which had taken place was always one of aggravated depression and exhaustion. This he did by a special examination of the condition of the vascular and nervous systems. Immediately before and after the fit, the pulse was shown to be weak and collapsed, and often irregular and slow, and in the fit itself little or no blood was found to be propelled into the vessels. This condition of the circulating system entailed a corresponding failure in the activity of the several nervous centres. He argued also that the brain was inactive, because the epileptic was silent, sad, moody, and generally still, before his seizure; completely bereft of sensibility, consciousness, and volition in his seizure; and stupid, confused and exhausted afterwards. He argued also from the true appearances found after death. He noticed the views of Dr. Davey and Dr. Henry Monro in connection with insanity, as corroborating this conclusion. He advanced arguments to show that the medulla oblongata, spinal cord, and the smaller ganglionic centres, were in a corresponding state of inactivity. Dr. Radcliffe then insisted upon the absence of any local disorder as a cause of epilepsy, and said that the only way in which any such disorder had to do with the matter, was in aggravating the general debility and prostration of the system. Under this head he went on to notice the views of Dr. Marshall Hall. He contended that in epilepsy there was no proof whatever of any increased irritation in the spinal cord, any more than in the medulla oblongata and brain, but that there were abundance of proofs of a directly opposite condition. He doubted that trachelismus and laryngismus, with the consequent cranial and cervical engorgement, had any necessary connection with epilepsy. He did this because there were distinct contractions in the limbs and elsewhere, before the occurrence of the spasmodic tightening of the muscles of the neck and larynx, and because the fit ceases when the congestion was at its height—so that he conceived Dr. Hall's theory had two insuperable difficulties to contend with, the one that the fit had actually begun before it ought (that is to say, before the congestion had showed itself), the other that it ceased when it ought to have been most violent (that is, when the congestion was at its height). He, (Dr. Radcliffe) argued, also, against the hypothesis of trachelismus and laryngismus, from its non-applicability to very many cases of epilepsy, in which cases, and in many other convulsive disorders, no such phenomena could be detected. He said further that this hy-

pothesis did not account for the insensibility of epilepsy, for, in his opinion, this insensibility (which was much more frequently of the nature of syncope than coma) was, as a general rule, due to a syncopal condition of the circulation rather than to any venous congestion in the vessels of the brain produced by the spasmodic tightening of the muscles of the neck. The mere violence of the muscular contractions or convulsions in epilepsy, Dr. Radcliffe said, was no objection to the existence of the most positive prostration and depression; on the contrary, this very phenomenon was the best proof of the existence of that state. Muscular contraction, physiologically as well as pathologically, was always (he asserted) the sign of some withdrawal of the nervous and other stimuli which appertain to the muscles, and never the result of the communication or importation of these stimuli; and for the confirmation of this opinion he referred to his published views on muscular physiology and pathology, and to the facts which had just been stated in connection with epilepsy. Upon the treatment, he argued at some length against low diet, and in favor of the most nutritious food, with stimulant and corroborative drinks, and against over-exercise and in favor of *rest*. Citing many other arguments, he conceived that the non-existence of vascular or nervous excitement, and the existence of a directly opposite condition, was itself an insuperable objection to bleeding and purging in this malady, and an argument for the necessity of stimulants and tonics, and all means which could corroborate the system. Narcotics, counter-irritants and emetics were condemned. The convulsion-exciting properties of strychnia were stated to be argument against rather than in favor of that drug. He objected, also, to tracheotomy in the cure of epilepsy, on the ground that there were many cases of that malady in which the larynx was not sensibly affected, and in which the impediment to the respiration was rather owing to irregular action or spasmodic fixation in the thoracic muscles and diaphragm, than to mere closure of the larynx.

Dr. Davey concurred in the views advanced by Dr. Radcliffe, and mentioned that in the Asylum at Colney Hatch, epileptics, who were usually admitted in a low state of vitality, were best treated by tonics and a judicious and discriminating diet. He related several cases to show that this treatment had been attended with the best results. In some cases wine and porter were added to nutritious diet. He expressed his belief that in the treatment of all nervous disorders practitioners had gone too far generally on the antiphlogistic system, by which he was sure many cases had been rendered incurable. Kind treatment, the avoidance of mechanical restraint, added to proper diet and regimen, had been found the best improvers of the mind and health, of the great majority of those who came under his care at the Colney Hatch Asylum.

Mr. Richardson agreed with the author of the paper, that the attempt to localize the seat of epilepsy, especially in the brain, had been a failure; and mentioned a number of cases in proof. He differed with Dr. Radcliffe as to depression generally producing the epileptic seizure, and mentioned a case in particular where the fit came sudde-

ring exertion, which had not been carried to fatigue. He differed also in thinking that epilepsy in talented persons usually came on after the brain had begun to fail in power. With respect to remedies, he thought, as a rule, that spirituous liquors did harm, and porter sometimes brought the epilepsy on. He eulogized the employment of tartar-emetic and valerian, and the use of issues and counter-irritants. Small bloodlettings were also sometimes admissible.

Dr. Dendy thought Dr. Radcliffe's treatment opposed to his theory. He (Dr. Dendy) suggested a combination of remedies as useful in some cases; such as the abstraction of blood to remove congestion, which might exist locally, as in cholera, even in otherwise healthy states of the system, and then to give tonics and support immediately. He thought that in all cases of epilepsy some lesion of the nervous system must exist. He complained that hallucinations, insanity, and other subjects had been mixed up in the discussion with epilepsy.

Dr. Webster agreed with the author in considering epilepsy as generally a disease of exhaustion, and that most frequently it affected persons of debilitated, broken-down constitutions. The complaint was also more apt to occur in parties endued with a scrofulous diathesis, especially if their parents had also suffered from the same affection. Indeed, hereditary tendency exerted considerable influence, and he considered epilepsy very liable to be transmitted to offspring, like some other maladies of that character. According to his (Dr. Webster's) experience, it was more frequent amongst the lower than the upper ranks, both in this country and in France; whilst he would further say, it oftener attacked males compared with females. This was certainly the case in many French asylums which he had recently inspected, where male epileptics predominated considerably. Respecting the causes often producing epilepsy, he considered terror as one of the most powerful; of which a very striking example some time ago came under his observation. It was that of a young woman, who was frightened by a fellow-servant disguised as a ghost, with a light in his hand, when he suddenly appeared before her at the end of a dark passage. She became so alarmed as to fall down in a fit of epilepsy, which afterwards frequently returned; and in one of these violent seizures Dr. Webster attended the patient. This disorder he considered almost incurable during the latter periods of life, or even in adults, especially when complicated with insanity. Instances of recovery might be occasionally reported, but they were so rare as to render the prognosis always unfavorable. In early age or before puberty, the prospect of recovery was much greater, and he might refer to several cases proving this inference, but it seemed unnecessary, as the fact must be well known to practitioners. Dr. Radcliffe's observations relative to the treatment of this often terrible disease, coincided very much with the principles he (Dr. Webster) would recommend. Respecting bleeding there could not prevail two opinions, and to use the lancet was most objectionable. Even the topical abstraction of blood in young plethoric subjects required great caution, and then only to relieve local congestion. With the author

Dr. Webster entirely agreed regarding the use of purgatives, although he would not employ drastic cathartics, as similar remedies occasioned too much debility. Allusion having been made to various mineral preparations at one time enjoying considerable reputation in epilepsy, but now seldom reputed efficacious, he (Dr. Webster) must mention one recently employed by a friend of his own—viz., Dr. Fornasari, physician to the Fains Lunatic Asylum in France, which he had visited last autumn. The remedy was valerianate of zinc, given in doses from half a grain to one, night and morning, which might be increased to three grains per day. Occasional purgatives were also prescribed, and frequent baths, the diet being also carefully regulated. Dr. Fornasari spoke favorably of the benefits it produced; and several cases then in the Asylum had derived so much relief, that fits, which at first recurrred every three, six, or eight days, had not supervened for more than three months. Supported by the above authority in favor of the valerianate of zinc, Dr. Webster administered it lately to a patient laboring under epilepsy, and apparently with such advantage as would induce him to recommend employing the same mineral in other examples. Although nutritious diet and generous regimen were often essential for epileptic patients, he thought indigestible food frequently acted in an injurious manner. Indeed, a full meal of improper substances often proved the exciting cause; and he could quote one case which came under his observation, where a person having eaten freely of fried bacon and eggs at supper, was seized with so severe a fit, about 3 o'clock next morning, that death followed in consequence. Notwithstanding wine and malt liquors, even in large quantities, had been recommended by several fellows, such stimulating beverages might be taken too freely; and he must remark, unless under special circumstances, much porter or ale was by no means so useful as wine diluted with water, where stimulants were really required. Great caution, therefore, became necessary when adopting that kind of treatment. Before sitting down, Dr. Webster observed, although he coincided with Mr. Richardson in opinion that many lesions of the brain and nervous system did not produce epileptic seizures, still these affections generally depended upon or indicated organic changes of structure within the cranium; at least his individual experience fully warranted such conclusions respecting the pathology of epilepsy.

Dr. Radcliffe, in answer, said, that the very extended experience of Dr. Davey as to the necessity of good diet with wine and beer in epilepsy, was a strong argument in favor of the view he had advocated. He said any one would be sensible of the advantages of such a course, who, remembering the appearance of epileptics in our own or in foreign hospitals a few years ago, now paid a visit to Colney Hatch or Hanwell. He would at least learn that good food and wine and beer did no harm. In answer to Mr. Richardson's objection that the epileptic was not always depressed before the fit, he called up Mr. Richardson's own admission that he had not watched that point particularly. To another objection from the same gentleman, that

Mahomet was epileptic during the most vigorous period of his life, he answered that Mahomet saw visions in his fits, and that on that account those fits could not be epileptic, inasmuch as the consciousness is suspended in epilepsy. He thought it better to reason from recent cases, the particulars of which were better known, and from the general history of the disease; which being done, he (Dr. Radcliffe) thought Mr. Richardson would be obliged to admit that the system of the epileptic was always marked by prostration, and most of all so marked in the fit itself. In reply to Mr. Dendy's defence of bleeding, he thought the utter absence of plethoric excitement and of nervous hyper-activity, and the presence of signs directly opposite to these in their nature, together with the absence of any ill effect from the generous treatment pursued at Colney Hatch and elsewhere, were insuperable objections to bleeding in any form. If Mr. Dendy took exceptions to Dr. Davey's arguments for a good diet and wine and beer from his experience and particular views of the nature of insanity, he must object to the necessity of bleeding in epilepsy being deduced from what Mr. Dendy had seen in cholera. Nor could he admit the soundness of the practice of combining remedies of opposite qualities, as local bleeding with tonics, which practice, in his opinion, was the relic of the ancient practice of jumbling all manner of remedies together, in the benevolent hope that one or the other of them might chance to do good.—*London Lancet.*

Cases of Fractured Skull, with Loss of Brain.

BY ARIEL HUNTON, M. D.

In the February number of the *Reporter*, p. 133, there is the relation of a case of fracture of the skull, with loss of a portion of the substance of the brain.

On those injuries, I propose to relate some of my experience. I recollect, in my childhood, a schoolmate of mine was kicked by a horse, the skull fractured, and the loss (as then reported) of a table spoonful of the brain; the *gossip* then was: "The boy cannot survive the loss of such an important part, ever so diminutive."

Soon it was rumored the lad would recover: "He will be idiotic."

There was a complete recovery, and no discernable want of intellect. This occurrence took place more than fifty years since, and the man is now living, and in the enjoyment of good health.

Now to my own experience.

CASE I.—Nov. 7, 1836, I was called to Eden, distant ten miles, to a lad some ten years of age, by the name of Wheelock, with a fractured skull, in consequence of falling the distance of twenty-two feet on the plank floor of a barn.

The fracture was on the right side of the frontal bone, nearly over the *bump* of ideality; down to the eyebrow. There were seven pieces of fractured bone removed, and with each piece a portion of

the brain. This operation was performed in the evening; the next morning consciousness had returned; and at no time during his recovery were there discovered aberrations of mind.

I visited the patient the 9th, 12th, 15th, and 22d; the intervening days between my visits were supplied by my friend Dr. William C. Stowell. There was a complete recovery, with no untoward symptoms, and no *discoverable* want of any portion of the mind.

Case II.—Sept. 26, 1847, was called to J. C. N., of Morristown, three miles from my residence, whose age was sixteen; his skull was fractured by the kick of a horse; he was conveyed to the house perfectly insensible, and remained so through the operation, and for several days subsequently, did not convey any catenation of ideas.

The fracture was on the frontal bone, extending to the coronal suture. With the removal of most of the fractured pieces of bone, parts of the brain were discernible. In searching for pieces of bone and coagula within the cranium, portions of the brain were removed by the fingers, and portions were discovered on the removal of several dressings.

It was several days before the lad was conscious of his sayings; his memory was so impaired, he could not communicate his ideas intelligibly, which was very annoying to him.

I visited him one morning, and found him in a highly excited and exhausted state, worrying and scolding for milk. He could not remember the name: "Give me some of that I want!" he would say.—"What do you want, Joseph?" would be asked: "You *know* what I want, give it me!" with the use of profane language. After teasing and fretting about an hour, until he was much exhausted, and every expedient had failed to ascertain his wants, he asked his mother "what she put in tea?" "It is *milk* you want, Joseph?" the mother replied. "*Yes*," he answered: "you *knew* what I wanted," and talked sailor language.

At another of my visits, I found him in a similar excitement; he wanted his trunk. The nurse could not divine what he desired, and there was no pacifying him; he would say to those about him, "it looks some like that," pointing to a box over the fire-place, containing some house plants.

When I entered his room, he addressed me, and said: "Doctor, what do you carry your medicine in?" He was immediately asked: "It is your trunk you want?" "*Yes*, my *trunk*," with a severe and harsh reprimand to his attendants. Those excitements would cause a furious pulsation in the wound, which would take several hours to allay.

Fungus Cerebri appeared in the wound to considerable extent, which I attributed (perhaps wrongfully) to those excitements, which caused a profuse flow of blood to the wound.

No means or, remedies, other than compress over the dressings to eradicate the fungus, were resorted to.

I attended my patient daily, and twice a day, from the 26th September to the 23d October, when he was so far recovered that I discontinued my visits, and left him, with directions, to the care of his friends.

It was months before his memory returned. In writing a letter, he would ask how to spell certain words; would ask the reason he could not spell them, saying he once knew how. When the reason was made known to him, the tears would stand in his eyes.

It was three years before his mind became normal, and at times, when excited by alcoholic drinks, aberrations of mind were still discoverable.

Case III.—The patient aged thirty-three years.

This case is not referable to the same category with the other two, but it is interesting in many respects.

Oct. 13, 1834, I was called to D. C., in Elmore, eleven miles from my residence. Mr. C. was thrown from his carriage, and struck on a stone on one of the parietal bones, whether right or left, I am not positive; he was taken up for dead, and conveyed to the nearest house. On examination, I could not discover any fracture or depression. Reaction took place before morning, and blood was drawn to the softening of the pulse: cathartics and febrifuges administered, quietness enjoined, and the room darkened.

On the 17th, or 5th of the illness, the friends and neighbors were dissatisfied because I did not apply the trephine, and sent to Hanover for Dr. Mussey; he could not respond to the call, and sent a substitute, who sustained me, in refraining from an operation; but recommended the use of tr. of sem. stramonium, in portions sufficient to dilate the pupil.

The patient was confined to his room with gradual amendment, in quietness and darkness, to the 26th, when he was permitted to visit the kitchen and eat with the family.

He was not at this time capable of expressing his ideas correctly; indeed, he talked very little; seldom spoke, except when he was spoken to.

Oct. 29th, visited my patient; he appeared to be slowly improving, but far from loquacious; said very little, except to answer questions; I now discontinued my visits.

His health and faculties have become perfectly restored.

[New Jersey Med. Reporter.

Reproduction of Lactation.

The *Am. Jour. of Med. Sci.* for Jan. contains a report of some cases read before the Rhode Island Medical Society, by Ariel Ballou, M. D., in which lactation was reproduced after an absence of from three to four months. Before seeing Dr. B.'s cases, the writer had occasion recently to recommend a similar course to a patient, in whom, in consequence of severe illness following confinement, the secretion of milk was suspended for several weeks. The result was entirely satisfactory.

The following is one of Dr. Ballou's cases ;—

"CASE III.—Mrs. O. H. H., aged about twenty-one years; of feeble constitution, and nervo-lymphatic temperament, was confined in July, 1847. Previous to her accouchment she was troubled with chronic aphtha, red canker, or with that condition of the system which is well known as "sore mouth attendant on pregnancy and lactation." Nothing unusual occurred at the time of delivery. No considerable loss of blood was sustained. As in similar cases, there was a remission of diarrhœa and sore mouth for a few days after accouchment, giving rise to a hope that, being relieved from the condition of pregnancy, she would recover the powers of digestion and the assimilation of nutriment, so as to enable the system to sustain the calls upon it consequent to lactation. But in the course of ten or twelve days after accouchment the sore mouth and diarrhœa returned with increased violence, producing great debility. The secretion of milk was copious, her pulse 120; the tongue flabby; there were frequent copious dejections of yellowish water, the face and extremities bloated, &c.—Fearing the worst results for my patient, I advised the immediate removal of the child from the breasts of the mother to those of a wet-nurse, at the same time informing the parents that on the recovery of the mother she could at pleasure reapply the child to the breast and have a full supply of milk, and be enabled to perform all the duties and functions of a mother for an indefinite period of time. The child was given in charge of a wet-nurse, the milk gradually disappeared, and the patient recovered under the use of tonic remedies and a generous diet. Between two and three months after this the mother called on me, having the appearance of restored health, and inquired if she might now take her child home with a hope of realizing my former assurances that she would be able to reproduce her milk. I assured her there was no doubt in relation to such a result, and her ability for the future to nurse her child. She took the child, applied it to the breasts, and in the course of two weeks had a good supply of milk.

"I met her some nine months after, when she informed me she was happy in the enjoyment of good health, and, to use her words, she 'had as good a breast of milk as if she had never dried it up.'"—*N. J. Medical Reporter.*

On the Reparative Power of the Spinal Cord after Complete Division.

BY E. BROWN-SEQUARD, M. D., OF PARIS.

I have performed a large number of experiments, with the view of determining the degree of curability of wounds of the spinal marrow. When I began these researches, I believed, with every physician, that exposure of the spinal cord to the action of the air, was an extremely dangerous operation. I had read and accepted as true, the following assertion of Dr. Longet: "All the experimenters who have had an opportunity of opening the vertebral canal of adult animals of the higher classes, ought to know, that as soon as the medulla spinalis,

even when surrounded by its liquid and by the dura mater, has been laid bare, in the lumbar region, the nervous action becomes so much enfeebled, that the animals are unable to keep themselves on their legs, which at the same time appear to be quite insensible. Suddenly, after the dura-mater has been cut, and the cerebro-spinal liquid has escaped through the wound, the state of the animal becomes worse; it falls down, struck by paralysis, and the posterior extremities may be cut without exciting the least appearance of pain."*

I have found that this description of phenomena is true only in certain cases, and in certain animals, (as the dog.) When the operation is performed slowly, and so as to give much pain to the animal, and produce a considerable hemorrhage, then it happens that an appearance of palsy follows the laying bare of the cord; but, even in that case, if the animal is left quiet for a short time, it recovers, and sensibility, together with voluntary motion, returns in its hind limbs.

When the operation is performed upon cats, sheep, and guinea-pigs, there is usually no appearance of palsy; but when it is greatly prolonged, it happens sometimes that, in consequence of the extreme exhaustion produced by the hemorrhage, and by excess of pain, the animal becomes apparently paralyzed, even before the spinal canal has been opened, so that it is not the action of air on the spinal marrow which causes the apparent palsy.

My experiments have gone so far as to prove that mammals may not only have no appearance of palsy, after opening their spinal canal, but that they are able to live long and apparently in very good health after their medulla spinalis has been exposed to the action of the air. I have seen guinea-pigs living very well after I had taken out eight or ten posterior arches of the lumbar and sacral vertebræ. There has been only a slight disturbance in the movements of the posterior limbs of these animals, and that disturbance, very probably, was in consequence of the excision of the muscles inserted upon the vertebral column.

After having stated the innocuity of the action of air on the spinal marrow, I have tried experiments on wounds of that organ.

It is known that there are clinical observations proving that the injuries of the spinal cord are not constantly followed by death, and that the paraplegia which is the result of these wounds may disappear more or less completely; but there is no observation proving the possibility of an entire curation, *i. e.*, of a full return of sensibility and of voluntary motion, after the complete transverse section of the spinal cord. The celebrated experiments of Arnemann, Flourens, Ollivier (d'Angers) and Jobert (de Lamballe) have left the question of the possibility of recovery after complete traverse section of the medulla spinalis heretofore unsettled.

My first experiments, made upon pigeons, had shown me an incipient return of the lost functions some months after the complete section of the spinal cord.† I afterwards saw five pigeons, upon which

*Traite d'Anat. et de Physiol. du Syst. Nerv. 1842. T. 1, p. 276.
†Gaz. Medic. de Paris. 1849, p. 232.

such a section had been made, gaining little by little, and at last entirely, both sensibility and voluntary motion. I have not been able to examine the spinal marrow of all these pigeons; but upon three of them the most careful microscopical examination of the injured cord has been made. One of these three animals had been operated upon eighteen months before the anatomical examination. The history of this pigeon is very interesting. Its spinal cord was *entirely divided* transversely between the fifth and sixth costal vertebræ.—The operation was followed by complete paralysis of the posterior part of the body, both as regarded sensibility and voluntary motion. At the end of three months, voluntary movements began to show themselves, in connection with reflex actions; and sensibility appeared to exist anew. These powers gradually augmented; and six months after the operation, the bird could stand for some minutes, but fell as soon as it attempted to walk. In the course of the seventh month it began to walk, but unsteadily, helping itself constantly with its wings. By the end of the eighth month, it could walk slowly without support; but if it attempted to walk fast, it fell over, unless it supported itself with its wings. When it was walking a little faster than usual, it loosened its wings a little, so as to be ready to prevent itself from falling. The beginning of the thirteenth month, it could run. Fifteen months after the operation, its progression seemed in all respects normal, save that a certain degree of stiffness remained in its gait. The generative function also, which had been entirely destroyed by the operation, was completely restored. It was a male.

My friend, Dr. Ch. Robin, assisted me in the autopsy of that pigeon. We found a bundle of cellular fibres uniting the dura mater to a part of the spinal cord where a whitish, opaque circular line existed. At that place the cord was somewhat contracted, its transverse diameter being smaller than elsewhere. A very fine longitudinal slice of the cord taken from the place of contraction, and examined with the microscope, showed us a great number of normal double and single-edged nervous tubes. There was nothing peculiar in that cicatrix, except: 1st, that the nerve-fibres exhibited, to a greater degree than usual, those varicosities which are found in nerve-fibres of the soft parts of the brain and of the cerebral nerves; 2d, that the nervous corpuscles, instead of being only in the central part of the cord, were scattered everywhere amidst the nerve-tubes.

In two other cases, the microscopical examination having been made by my friends Dr. Lebert and Dr. Follin, we found a like reunion of the nervous fibres of the cord.

In several guinea-pigs, in which I had made the section through only one half of the spinal cord, an incomplete return of voluntary power was observed within seven or eight months after the operation. In case of one of these, a guinea-pig which had been subjected to this operation the year before, and in which sensibility appeared to have been completely restored. and voluntary movement less completely, I made, with my friend M. Laboulbere, a careful examination of the injured part. We found that the section had traversed both the posterior columns, as well the anterior and lateral columns, and a por-

tion of the grey substance on the right side, all of which parts exhibited a sort of contraction, the continnity of the divided parts being re-established by a whitish opaque cicatrix. On examining the substance of this cicatrix, we found it in part made up of fibres of areolar tissue, the direction of which was transverse or very slightly oblique. These cellular fibres were crossed by great numbers of normal double-edged nerve-fibres running in a longitudinal direction. The nerve-fibres were found uninterruptedly continuous not only through the whole extent of the cicatrix, but also before and behind. There were a small number of nerve-corpuscles scattered between the nerve and areolar fibres.

From these researches I draw the following conclusions:

1st. That the spinal marrow, even in adult mammalia, may be exposed to the action of the air without danger to the life of the animal.

2d. That wounds of the spinal marrow may be repaired.

3d. That after a complete transverse section of the spinal cord, the functions of that organ may be entirely restored.—*Medical Examiner.*

Influence of the Imagination of the Mother upon the Fœtus.

BY L. SLUSSER, M. D., OF CANAL FULTON, OHIO.

Whether the fœtus in utero can be affected in its development by extraneous causes, operating through the imagination of the mother; or, at what period of utero-gestation an arrest or perversion of development can take place, if at all; or the precise time at which those influences cease, admitting that they may be produced—are subjects upon which the profession are divided. Without designing to take either side of a question so obscure, and yet so speculative, I shall detail a case in point, allowing the reader to form his own conclusions.

Mrs. R———, aged about 34, a lady of more than ordinary strength of mind, and of cultivated intellect, was married in March, 1850.—She is of sanguine temperament, and has always been regular in her menstrual function. About four months after marriage, she became pregnant; but had an abortion in the second month, excited, as she supposed, from fatigue in a long walk. Her convalescence was somewhat tedious, as she suffered considerably from uterine hemorrhage.

Her catamenia restored, continued uninterrupted until June, 1851, when they were again suppressed. The ordinary indications following, she suspected herself again pregnant, in which suspicion she was in due time confirmed by unmistakable signs. Gestation progressed without the occurrence of anything worthy of note, to the sixth month; up to that period she enjoyed unwonted health. Appetite good—bowels regular—spirits buoyant—sleep refreshing—in brief, she was entirely free from those tormenting sympathetic troubles, no less common than harrassing to the pregnant female. Desirous of offspring, she looked forward with bright hopes and fond anticipations to her expected confinement.

About this time, a cub bear, brought from California, was purchased by a citizen of the town and kept in an out building of a lot adjoining her residence. The animal, unused to close confinement, kept up a strange and unearthly noise, much resembling that made by a lunatic brother of Mrs. R. who had been under her special charge for several years previous, but now an inmate of an asylum. The peculiarly distressing noise made by the animal, occasioned, as Mrs. R. supposed, by want of food, distressed her exceedingly. She had frequent opportunities of seeing the animal, which always increased her trepidation of mind, which was naturally sensitive. Every effort to control her feelings—to fortify her mind, and resist this influence, was unavailing. The bear seemed ever present in her mind. This constant excitement soon began to sensibly affect her health. Her rest became broken—appetite impaired—bowels costive; in short the whole train of sympathetic disorders frequent in her condition, were unusually aggravated. Medication afforded but temporary relief.—Efforts were made to have the bear removed, but they were unavailing.

On Saturday morning, Feb. 28th ult., while yet in bed, she was awakened from sleep by a discharge of water—the membranes having ruptured spontaneously, and without pain. She immediately took a portion of oil, which operated in a few hours. During the day she had a free discharge of water, especially at every movement of the body, but she experienced no pain. In the evening I was called in—made an examination, and found the os uteri slightly dilated, but tense—the head presenting. About midnight she was delivered of a female child, much emaciated, and in a state of asphyxia. By means of external stimuli, and the substitution of artificial respiration, the child was recuscitated, when I tied the cord, and separated it from the placenta which followed soon after.

The child lived but about twenty hours. The following is a report ot an examination made of it by Dr. Dorland and myself, previous to its interment.

The feet and ancles resemble talipes valgus. The soles of the feet flat, and the heels projecting beyond the usual length. The thighs flexed upon the abdomen, and the flexor muscles so contracted as not to admit of full extension, without great stretch of the tissues involved. The same was the case with the upper extremities. The arms could not be raised above a right angle with the body.—The wrists turned out—the fingers over-lapped each other, and their flexor tendons were contracted. The nails were elevated in the centre, and quite pointed, much resembling claws. The arms, legs and back were covered with a fine hair from three to six lines in length, of a dark brown color, and so abundant as to strike all who beheld it with wonder and astonishment. The skin along the limbs and back was remarkably rough. In other respects, the appearance of the child was natural, though we did not examine the internal organs.—The facial and cranial developments were perfect. The child had nursed, and had a motion of the bowels previous to its death, but no discharge of urine.

The physiological question involved in this case is, could the fœtus, at the period of advance indicated, [not less than six, nor more than seven months,] be susceptible of an alteration from a normal condition, presupposing that up to that period there was a perfect development? As the muscular and dermoid tissues are the last formed, could their development have been arrested from extraneous causes operating through the mind of the mother?—*Medical Examiner.*

Diagnosis of Incipient Phthisis Pulmonalis. (Pulmonary Consumption.)

From the late excellent work of Dr. Walshe on the "*Heart and Lungs*," which has been critically analyzed by Dr. Rouanet, in this and the preceding number, we extract the following graphic summary of the diagnostic signs of incipient Phthisis.

(*a*) A young adult, who has had an obstinate cough, which commenced without coryza, and without any very obvious cause, a cough at first dry and subsequently attended for a time with watery or mucilaginous-looking expectoration, and who has wandering pains about the chest, and loses flesh even slightly, is, in all probability, phthisical. (*b*) If there be hæmoptysis to the amount of a drachm, even, the diagnosis becomes, if the patient be a male, and positively free from aneurism and mitral disease, almost positive. (*c*) If, in addition, there be slight dulness under percussion at one apex, with jerking or divided and harsh respiration, while the resonance at the sternal notch is natural, the diagnosis of the first stage of phthisis becomes next to absolutely certain. But not absolutely certain; for I have known every one of the conditions in *a*, *b* and *c*, exist, (except hæmoptysis, the deficiency of which was purely accidental) when one apex was infiltrated with encephaloid cancer, and no cancer had been discovered elsewhere to suggest to the physician its presence in the lung. (*e*) If there be cough, such as described, and permanent weakness and hoarseness of the voice, the chances are very strong (provided he be non-syphilitic,) that the patient is phthisical. (*f*) If decidedly harsh respiration exist at the left apex, or at the right apex behind, if the rhythm of the act be such as I have called *cogged-wheel*, and there be dulness, so slight even as to require the dynamic test for its discovery, there can be little doubt of the existence of phthisis. (*g*) If, with the same combination of circumstances, deep inspiration evokes a few clicks of dry crackling rhonchus, the diagnosis of phthisis, so far as I have observed, is absolutely certain. (*h*) If these clicks, on subseqent examination, grow more liquid, the transition from the first to the second stage may be positively announced. (*i*) If there be slight flattening under one clavicle, with deficiency of expansion movement, harsh respiration and slight dulness under percussion, without the local or general symptoms of phthisis, the first stage of tuberculization cannot be diagnosticated with any surety, unless there be incipient signs at the other apex also; the conditions in question, limited to one side, might depend on chronic pneumonia, or on thick induration-matter in the pleura. (*k*) The existence, of limited though marked, dulness,

under one clavicle, with bronchial respiration and pectoriliquy, so powerful as to be painful to the ear, the other apex giving natural results, will not justify the diagnosis of phthisis. I have known this combination when the apex of the lung was of model health, and a fibrous mass, the size of a walnut, lay between the two laminæ of the pleura. I would even go further, and say that the combination in question is rather hostile, than otherwise, to the admission of phthisis; as, had tuberculous excavation formed on one, the other lung would, in infinite probability, have been affected in an earlier stage. (*l*) Pneumonia, limited to the supra and infra-clavicular region on one side, and not extending backwards, is commonly, but not always, tuberculous. (*m*) Subcrepitant rhonchus, limited to one base posteriorly, is not, as has been said, peculiar to tubercle; it may exist in emphysema, and in mitral disease. (*n*) Chronic peritonitis, in a person aged more than fifty years, provided cancer can be excluded, involves, as a necessity, the existence of tubercles in the lungs. To this law of Louis's, it is necessary to add the qualification, provided Bright's disease be also absent. (*o*) Pleurisy with effusion, which runs a chronic course, in spite of ordinary treatment, is, in the majority of cases, tuberculous or cancerous; the character of the symptoms, previously to the pleurisy, will generally decide between the two. (*p*) Double pleurisy, with effusion, is not, as has been said, significant of tubercle; for it may depend on Bright's disease. If the latter disease can be excluded, carcinoma and pyohæmia remain, as other possible causes. (*q*) If a young adult, free from dysentery, and who has not resided in tropical climates, suffers from obstinate diarrhœa, which goes on, month after month, with slight remissions or intermissions, even though there be no cough, he is, in most strong probability, phthisical. If physical signs, to the slightest amount, exist at either apex, he is, almost to absolute certainty, phthisical. (*r*) If a young adult, free from secondary syphilis and spermatorrhœa, and not dissolute in his habits, steadily lose weight, without clear cause, he is, in all probability, phthisical, even though no subjective chest-symptoms exist. (*s*) But he is not by any means certainly so; for he may have latent cancer in some unimportant organ, or he may have chronic pneumonia. (*t*) Nay, more, he may steadily lose weight, have dry cough, occasional diarrhœa, and night-sweats, and present dulness under percussion, and bronchial respiration under both clavicles, and yet be non-phthisical. I have known all this occur in cases, both when the lungs were infiltrated superiorly with primary encephaloid cancer, and when they contained secondary nodules of the same kind. (*u*) Failure of weight becomes less valuable as a sign of phthisis, the longer the thirtieth year has been passed. (*v*) The discovery of cardiac disease, with marked symptoms, deposes against, but does not exclude, the existence of active tuberculization. (*w*) The existence of cancer in any organ, is unfavorable to the presence of tuberculous disease; but tubercle and cancer *may* co-exist, even in the same lung.—[*N. O. Med. & Surg. Journ.*

Varieties of Suicide.

Self-murder is that voluntary rational suicide which is implied in the technical phraseology of felo de se. Suicide is not always insanity; it occurs under circumstances which do not indicate incapacitated judgment or diseased will. It may be the sinful result, in an unchristian mind, of a vigorous comparison betwixt long-continued mental distress and transient physical pain, betwixt one mode of violent death and another, betwixt present actual wretchedness, and a doubtful condition of future existence. It may be evil done that good may come; thus Leonidas volunteered the required loss of Heracleidan blood at Thermopylæ; Martius Curtius leaped into the chasm; the citizens of Calais offered themselves for the gallows; and the virgin may prefer suicide to certain dishonor. In some countries suicide has been in certain circumstances a religious duty or customary etiquette. The Japanese dignitary rips up his abdomen when disgraced from office; the concubines of the Peruvian Inca sacrificed themselves on his tomb; and the Hindoo widow immolates herself on the funeral fire. Self-murder is, however, I believe, the rarest form of suicide. It is presumed to be a sane act, in the absence of contrary evidence, when such motives as the above are clearly traceable; but even then when it is the deed of remorse or despair, it is the result of a condition as uncontrollable by the judgment as a diseased impulse. Suicide, preceded by revengeful murder, following intelligible motives, implies felo de se. The less painful, and the more gradual the mode of death selected, the greater would be the presumption of sanity. Death by poison, charcoal vapor, or chloroform, would less indicate a diseased impulse than would pistoling, cutting the throat, or precipitation. The presumption of insanity would also be weakened by the fact of self-destruction being the result of a community of resolution; as when the member of a suicide club, if such a society exist, is no more to be seen, or the crew of a boarded ship blow themselves and the enemy into the air, or the daughters of a Lord Archibald plunge together into the lake. The conjunct suicide of two individuals only, especially of the opposite sex, may, however, be conjunction of insanity, with a diseased intensity of sympathetic emotion.

Insane Suicide is the phenomenon of self-destruction occurring amongst those laboring under any of the forms of insanity, as already spoken of, and on which it is unnecessary to dilate. The deed is to be held as resulting from the mental disease in all cases in which it is committed by a lunatic, whether it can be seen to be attributable to the influence of disorderly judgment or not; for we can neither trace all the diseased motives which govern the conduct of the insane, nor, as we have already seen, reconcile their actions with the objects which impelled them. There is no rationale in the doings of lunacy.

Suicidal moral insanity.—The cases of self-destruction which we are to consider as belonging to this class, differ from what I have termed self-murder, in being uncombined with manifest disease of the understanding. The suicidal propensity is, in some instances, a

form of insanity, per se, a variety of moral insanity, and unaccompanied by incapacity of judgment; in other cases it only appears to be so, the intellectual disorder being either undisplayed or overlooked. The simplest example of pure suicidal impulse, uncomplicated with disordered judgment—suicide from loss of control—is the self-destruction which may be the result of *fascination*—the feeling whose approach some of you possibly may have experienced in your own person in looking over a precipitous height. The natural—that is to say, the healthy impulse in such a position would be an excitement of the instinct of self-preservation; the opposed feeling, though perhaps common, is truly anormal, and has, it is probable, a pathological source, and may be allied to that feeling of vertigo which is still more common in such a situation. This last is said to be a sensation developed only in the special circumstance of an immediate tangible connection with the point towards which the eye is directed; it is felt in looking from a precipice, but not from the car of a balloon; and a similar sensation attends looking up the face of a perpendicular cliff, or to the high roof in the interior of a cathedral, but does not interfere with one gazing on the sky. It would be interesting could it be known whether the suicidal impulse is ever developed in looking downward from a balloon. It may be said generally of suicide from suggestive opportunity, that it is a morbid phenomenon. It is the most producible of all the insane impulses. Were a convenient noose to be hung up in the sleeping apartments of a lunatic asylum, doubtless more than those who went to bed suicidally inclined, would be found suspended in the morning. It is not so discreditable to the country that the gallery of the Monument was found necessary to be encaged, as that it was not so protected before that necessity was proved. [Northern Lancet.

Sympathies of the Mind with the Body.

All are aware of the wonderful influence exerted by the condition of the body upon the faculties and affections of the soul. The following, from the Essay on Indigestion, by Dr. James Johnson, contains some very remarkable facts:—

"Many a happy and lucky thought has sprung from an empty stomach! Many an important undertaking has been ruined by a bit of undigested pickle—many a well-laid scheme has failed in execution from a drop of green bile—many a terrible and merciless edict has gone forth in consequence of an irritated gastric nerve. The character of men's minds has often suffered from temporary derangements of the body; and thus, health may make the same man a hero in the field, whom dyspepsia may render imbecile in the cabinet.

Dr. J. illustrates his subject in his usual felicitous manner. The following are some of his remarks:—

"I lately saw a gentleman of brilliant talents and prolific genius, who could sit down and write extemporaneously whole pages of superior poetical effusions, with scarcely an effort of the mind, and who

would yet, from a sudden derangement of the digestive organs, be so completely and quickly prostrated in intellectual power, as not to be able to write three lines on the most common subject. On a late occasion, when he had merely to communicate an official transaction that required not more than half a dozen lines in the plainest language, he could not put pen to paper, though the attempt was made fifty times in the course of two days. At length he was forced to throw himself into a post-chaise, and perform a long journey to deliver orally what might have been done in one minute by the pen.—In half an hour after this ride was performed, he sat down and wrote an ode descriptive of his own state of nervous irritability, which would not have done discredit to the pen of a Byron.

"The author of this essay has himself been so enervated by a fit of what is called indigestion, as to be utterly incapable of breaking the seal of a letter for twenty-four hours; though, to all appearance, in good health at the time. Equally astonishing and unacountable is the degree of timidity, terror, incapacity, or whatever other magic spell it is, which anihilates, for a time, the whole energy of the mind, and renders the victim of dyspepsia afraid of his own shadow—or of things more unsubstantial, if possible, than shadows."

Again he says: "It is under the influence of such paroxysms as these, I am thoroughly convicted, that nine-tenths of those melancholy instances of suicide, which shock the ears of the public, take place."

We have no doubt of it. We have seen men of the strongest minds—strongest, we mean, but for their diseases—as utterly overcome by a paroxysm of indigestion, as Dr. J. says he has been; and we have seen them on the very brink, too, of self-destruction. How little do mankind know of the reciprocal influence of mind and matter!—*Presbyterian Advocate.*

VACANCY FOR A DOCTOR.—Grenies, the Indian Agent in New-Mexico, wrote home on the 31st of March, that he knew of an opening for an enterprising Physician. A vacancy had happened and he told how. One of the Eutaws on the San Juan River was taken sick, and an Indian Doctor from the Rio Verde was called in to attend him. Owing to the strength of the disease, or to the weakness of the prescription of the doctor, the patient died and was buried.—After the funeral the Doctor was by the friends of the deceased, tied up, shot and scalped; his wife's hair was cut off; his house burned, containing all his property, and all his animals killed. This is the law among these Indians, regulating doctors. The vacancy is yet unfilled. [*Exch.*

QUININE IN URTICARIA. By DR. WICKHAM.—Dr. Wickham has found in the wards of M. Legroux several cases of urticaria, complicated with severe pain in the joints, yield readily to quinine—a remedy, he observes, also useful in simple urticaria, which exhibits the same fugacious characters as rheumatism.—*Rev. Med. Chr.*, viii. p. 360.

Hydrophobia.

We find the following among the miscellaneous selections of the Charleston (S. C.) *Mercury*. It is an authentic statement, and if M. Buisson is a person worthy of credence, the information which it discloses is of grave importance, not only to the medical faculy, but to the whole human family. That the Academy of Sciences should have treated it with disregard so long is, perhaps, attributable to its having been anonymously communicated.

"M. Buisson has written to the Paris Academy of Science, to claim as his a small treatise on hydrophobia, addressed to the Academy so far back as 1835, and signed with a single initial. The case referred to in that treatise was his own. The particulars and the mode of cure adopted were as follows: He had been called to visit a woman who for three days, was said to be suffering under this disease. She had the usual symptoms, contraction of the throat, inability to swallow, abundant secretion of saliva, and foaming at the mouth. Her neighbors said she had been bitten by a mad dog about forty days before. At her own urgent entreaties she was bled, and died a few hours after, as was expected. M. Buisson, who had his hands covered with blood, incautiously cleansed them with a towel which had been used to wipe the mouth of the patient. He then had an ulceration upon one of his fingers, yet thought it sufficient to wipe off the saliva that adhered with a little water. The ninth day after, being in his cabriolet, he was suddenly seized with a pain in his throat, and one still greater in his eyes. The saliva was continually pouring into his mouth; the impression of a current of air, and the sight of brilliant bodies gave him a painful sensation; his body appeared to him so light that he felt as though he could leap to a prodigious height. He experienced, he said, a wish to run and bite, not men, but animals and inanimate bodies. Finally, he drank with difficulty, and the sight of water was still more distressing to him than the pain in the throat. These symptoms recurred every five minutes, and it appeared to him as though the pain commenced in the affected finger, and extended thence to the shoulder. From the whole of the symptoms, he judged himself afflicted with hydrophobia, and resolved to terminate his life in a vapor bath. Having entered one for that purpose, he caused the heat to be raised to one hundred and seventy degrees thirty-six minutes, Fahrenheit, when he was equally surprised and delighted to find himself free of all complaint. He left the bathing room well, dined heartily, and drank more than usual. Since that time, he says, he has treated in the same manner more than eighty persons bitten, in four of whom the symptoms had declared themselves; and in no case has he failed, except in the case of one child, seven years old, who died in the bath. The mode of treatment he recommends is, that the person bit should take a certain number of vapor baths, (commonly called Russian,) and should induce every night a violent perspiration, by wrapping himself in flannels, and covering himself with a feather bed; the perspiration is favored by drinking freely of a warm decoction of sarsaparilla. He declares, so convinced is he

of the efficacy of his mode of treatment, that he will suffer himself to be inoculated with the disease. As a proof of the utility of copious and continual perspiration, he relates the following anecdote:—A relative of the musician Gretry was bitten by a mad dog, at the same time with many other persons, who all died of hydrophobia.—For his part, feeling the first symptoms of the disease he took to dancing night and day, saying that he wished to die gaily. He recovered. M. Buisson also cites the old stories of dancing being a remedy for the bite of a tarantula; and draws attention to the fact that the animals in which this madness is most frequently found to develope itself spontaneously, are dogs, wolves, and foxes, which never perspire."

Remarks.—Whatever may be thought of the reliability of the above statements, it is certain that in Hydrophia a definite, and specific *materies morbi*, or *matter of disease*, is introduced into the system of the sufferer, being conveyed in the saliva of the rabid animal into the blood. The lapse of time that occurs before the manifestation of hydrophobic symptoms, shows also that the animal poison, like that of Typhus Fever, &c., sets up changes—perhaps a peculiar fermentation—in the blood. In this view of the case nothing can be more rational than an effort to remove this morbific matter by copious and repeated perspirations, kept, of course, within the reactive powers of the patient.

But there is another remedy well worthy of attention. I allude to the *Scutellaria Lateriflora*, or *Scullcap.* So far as known this plant is totally harmless. Yet cases are on record in which it has been given in hydrophobia with, so far as could be judged, entirely favorable results. The scullcap may be given in the form of tea, in almost unlimited quantities. It is an excellent antispasmodic and diaphoretic. Hence, after the disease has declared itself, this remedy meets both indications of the case,—preventing or mitigating the convulsions, and by perspiration helping to remove the offending *virus* from the blood. It might not be amiss to combine with it the vapor bath.

The following is annexed without vouching for its authenticity or value. The use of the *chloride* as a local corrective of the wound, perhaps as an antidote to so much of the poison as remains in it, seems reasonable. Caustics have long been recommended, and with these it is advised to keep up a discharge for some time from the wound. Whichever is applied, it should be done early; but if the wound has healed, it is still well to cut out the cicatrix, and keep up the discharge, as in the first instance, by the application of the chloride, or the ordinary caustics. The treatment below given is *said* to prove an al-

most sure preventive of the disease, as will be seen. It is recommended by M. Cosar. While we should not have too much faith in any specific course for Hydrophobia, it is well to remember that the disease has been undoubtedly cured or prevented in many instances by Indian Doctors, and others; and surely it is worth while to obtain and diffuse upon this subject the scattered rays of light, now so sparingly spread abroad as to do little more than render the darkness under which both profession and people labor, "visible." Here is the paragraph referred to.

Take two table spoonfuls of fresh chloride of lime, in powder, mix it with half a pint of water, and with this wash keep the wounds constantly bathed and frequently renewed. The chlorine gas possesses the power of decomposing the tremendous poison, and renders mild and harmless that venom against whose resistless attack the artillery of science has been so long directed in vain. It is necessary to add that this wash should be applied, as soon as possible after the infliction of the bite. The following are the results of this treatment:— From 1810 to 1824, the number of persons admitted into Breslau Hospital was 184, of whom only two died; from 1783 to 1824, into the Hospital of Zurich, 223 persons were bitten by different animals, (182 by dogs,) of whom only four died.

Now that this fearful disease is appearing in various parts of the country, will not our friends who may have new views or treatment to recommend, oblige the patrons and conductors of the Journal, by furnishing the same early for our pages? R.

SIMPLE CURE FOR CROUP.—We find in the Journal of Health, the following simple cure for this dangerous disease. Those who have passed nights of great agony at the bed-side of beloved children, will treasure it up as a valuable piece of information. If a child is taken with croup, instantly apply cold water, ice if possible, suddenly and freely to the neck and chest with a sponge. The breathing will instantly be relieved. So soon as possible, let the sufferer drink as much as it can; then wipe it dry, cover it up warm, and soon a quiet slumber will relieve the parents' anxiety, and lead the heart in thankfulness to the power which has given to the pure gushing fountain such medical qualities. [*Exch.*

TRANSACTIONS OF THE NATIONAL E. M. ASSOCIATION.—This work is now rapidly being put in type, and will be ready for sale early in the present month (July). The publisher, Mr. Darrow, is getting out the work in excellent style. Orders may be sent on at once to E. Darrow, or to the Eds. of the Journal. EDS.

EDITORIAL.

Physical Science of the Human Body

FOR GENERAL READING.—**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 250.**

A New Subject.—The properties, and some of the relations to living bodies, of Carbon, Oxygen, and Hydrogen, among elementary substances, and of Carbonic acid gas, and water, among compounds, have now been passed briefly under review. These substances are all inanimate. They are *chemical*, in the ordinary sense of that term, that is, *dead-chemical*, or *a-zoo-chemical*. They are simply mineral in their character; and have never been discovered to possess any higher powers than other gases, liquids, and solids. They have never shown the most distant approach to the manifestation of *Life*; and so long as they are not compounded above the degrees in which we have found them, probably never can.

But we now approach the consideration of a new class of substances, which rise in importance infinitely above those just named, and which, in the *manifestations* and *powers* they are capable of, stand apart from them by a chasm which no art can measure, and no discoveries fill with intermediate links. These, too, are chemical, but *living-chemical*, or *zoo-chemical*. The difference between *bubbling water* and *blushing blood*,—who can calculate it? The vast remove between inert carbon and the energizing, evolving plant-structure,—who can measure it? Or who will find links in substances lying between the Carbon and the plant, with which to bridge over this impassable gulf; and show, by "easy stages," how and why what once was dead becomes alive, or how the passive mineral is transformed into the almost creative "living thing." It can not be done; and I have introduced my subject with a question, for the purpose of showing that question to be unanswerable.

No philosophy can show us the connection between the elements, and the tree or man; but chemistry finds it her easiest task to show that the physical tree, or man, is wholly made up of the elements; and in that inscrutable fact we must, as yet, be content to rest.—Though to explain is impossible; to deny is worse than absurd.

When we look at living things—plants and animals—the most obvious fact we observe is, that each kind is possessed of a *definite form*

and size, from which it may depart in a degree, but never wholly.—Minerals, unless in crystals, have no definite form or size. Granite is found in sand, or in rocks of mountain size. Water penetrates the air in invisible drops, or in one outspread, mammoth drop, with ships on its bosom, and nations and their treasures in its bed, we call it Ocean! But another obvious distinction is this, that living things have always a *more or less rounded outline*, because they are produced by the evolving or unrolling of forces from within; while minerals, although they may present the rounded outline, do so only accidentally, and are ever ready to take on the irregular, uneven, or angular contour; and this is because they increase by the accretion or addition of like particles on their surface. Here, then, we see that although crystalized minerals have often a definite form and size, yet their angular outline at once determines their proper classification.

But there is a less apparent, yet really more wonderful, distinction between animate and inanimate bodies. It is this. The former are wholly made up of very many smaller parts, each of which is a perfect apparatus in itself, and has a given *use*, fitting it to subserve the needs of some other part, or of the entire fabric. These several pieces of apparatus, or instruments, we term *organs*. In man, the liver, the heart, the skin, a muscle, or bloodvessel, is an organ.

Vegetables and animals are termed *organized* bodies, and sometimes *organic*; and the meaning and fitness of these terms will now be understood. They are organic, because, as I have said, they are wholly made up of organs. There is no useless timber in the fabric of a healthy man, or in that of a healthy tree. Every atom enters into some special instrument of life. The tree, or the man, is a *community of workers*; and the thread they weave is life. For a similar reason to that above given, the plant or animal structure is called an *organism*.

We will now proceed to consider the composition and properties of the substances which compose organized bodies, in other words, of *organic compounds*. Of those we make for convenience a division into two classes, vegetable, and animal; although there is not in all cases a plain line of distinction running between these,—many identical compounds being found in both kingdoms. We shall need to understand something of vegetable chemistry and physiology as a stepping stone to the science of Man.

VEGETABLE COMPOUNDS.—6. DEXTRINE.—When a mixture of starch and water is heated to near the boiling point, it forms the translucent jelly-like substance, well known to housewives, who still, how-

ever, term it *starch.* If this starch-jelly is boiled, now, with a small quantity of dilute sulphuric, or indeed almost any acid, the former loses its consistency, dissolves completely, and becomes a limpid fluid. This substance, in a dried state, forms British Gum. Its technical name is Dextrine ; and in this case it is *artificially* formed.

In a growing plant, the sap ascending from the roots to the leaves, if it has not become mixed with that descending from the latter, contains no organic ingredients, consisting simply, of certain gases and solids dissolved in water. But in the descending sap, or after mixture, in that ascending, a glutinous, gummy substance is formed, which may be separated, and is found to be identical with that above mentioned. This, too, is Dextrine, *naturally* formed, during the proces of digestion, in the leaves of the plant.

Dextrine is assumed, and with good reason, to be the FIRST FORMED in the entire scale of organic compounds,—the starting point of organizable matter. It has been subjected to careful analysis, and found to have the following composition, $C_{12}\ H_{10}\ O_{10}$, exactly the same with that of *starch*, *vegetable cell-membrane*, and according to some authorities, also of *gum*, and uncrystalized *cane-sugar.* We see, therefore, that it is not a product obtained by a chemical change from starch, as in the case I first mentioned, but simply a result of the transformation of the latter substance. It is doubtless the main *pabulum*, or food, of plants, and many of their secretions.

It will be observed that Dextrine contains 12 atoms of Carbon, united with 10 each, of Hydrogen and Oxygen. Now these latter would just form 10 atoms of water. Hence we consider Dextrine to be formed by the union of 10 atoms of water with 12 of Carbon. This process, as I have said, takes place in the leaf or green bark of the plant, and as part of the process of digestion there performed; but it occurs only during the presence of light. During the time light is thus present, and the formation of Dextrine going on, the leaves and green bark throw out a sensible amount of Oxygen gas. This fact leads us to the almost necessary conclusion, that under the stimulus of light the vegetable tissues already existing in the part, are endowed with the power of decomposing the Carbonic acid gas carried in a dissolved state into the leaves, setting free its Oxygen, and then by an entirely new process, causing the Carbon thus obtained to combine with a definite amount of the water found in the ascending sap, and to form the new, or organic substance.

It would seem from this view as if Carbon were really the *basis* of vegetable compounds,—as if it were the *central atom* about which all

the others cluster. In what way light operates to bring about a union between this element and water, it may be hard to say. It would seem as if the Light were really consumed in the process, becoming metamorphosed into so much *vegeto-chemical force*, by which the union is effected, and the new compound applied to the development of additional structure in the plant. But in any case, Light only becomes affective through the presence of a pre-existing vegetable tissue or germ. Hence the first germ could not be formed by any such agency, and must have been the work of direct creation.

7. CELLULOSE.—When pith of Elder is boiled, then carefully picked apart with the point of a fine needle, and the very minute fragments examined under a good microscope, it is found that the pith was composed of an immense number of little *closed sacs*, each having a perfect cavity within itself, like a soap-bubble. But unlike the latter, which is empty, we here find the cavity filled with a peculiar substance; so that we discover a clear distinction of *cell-wall*, or *cell-membrane*, and *contents*. The cell-membrane is an extremely thin, but regular and complete film or sheet of soft-solid vegetable matter. When the green shoot of asparagus, or other succulent vegetables is sliced up, and repeatedly washed alternately in water and alcohol, the juices and peculiar secretions are removed and shreds of *tubes* and *fibres* and masses of *cells* remain in a pulpy, jelly-like mass, from which they can be separately drawn and examined.

The soft-solid material, now, of the cell, tube and fibre in this case, is Cellulose. The origin of the name is easily seen. The composition of Cellulose is $C_{12}\ H_{10}\ O_{10}$. Yet while Dextrine, having the same composition, is very soluble, this substance is neither soluble in water nor alcohol; and hence it is that those fluids can be used to wash and cleanse it. Hence also the softest vegetables do not boil to a complete jelly, but always remain more or less in shreds, because the fibres are not dissolved. This substance is supposed to be merely solidified, or appropriated from the fluid Dextrine of the sap. It constitutes the entire structure of soft plants, perhaps, also, the hard fibre in the stems of trees. Some authors, however, as Johnston, suppose the hard fibres to have a slightly different composition, and to contain $C_{12}\ H_8\ O_8$, or two equivalents less of water, and this they call Lignine. However this may be, we can only come down to the fibre of any plant, by removing more or less hard, brittle, incrusted matter, that has been gradually deposited about the former, and which containing lime, silica, alumina, and resinous matters, gives it much of its hardness. The tubes and cells in hard wood are found nearly or quite filled with the same incrusting matters.

A beautiful form of Cellulose, or Lignine, is seen in the fibres of of cotton or linen. These tasteless and tenacious threads, as well as all other forms of Cellulose, may be transformed by the action of sulphuric acid and heat, into sugar. Thus sugar may be made from old rags. To think of having one's lemonade sweetened with the cast-off dickey of a dandy, or something worse, is enough to make one suspicious about the benefits of science!

With respect to the foregoing substances, it is probable that Dextrine may be of use when introduced into the animal econmy. It may then serve as *fuel*, or be converted into *fat*. If Cellulose is turned to use in the human system, it is undoubtedly in the same way; but this point has long been questioned. Stories are told of certain tribes of men subsisting during a part of the year on saw-dust bread, the bark of trees, &c.; but it must be remembered that these substances contain starch, sugar, gum, and propably albumen also, all of which are known to be subservient to the purposes of the animal system, as well as Cellulose or Lignine, concerning which there is doubt. Besides it is universally noticed that when *woody fibre* or *cell* is contained in the food, these portions appear freely in the alvine dejections, and commonly very slightly changed. Until, therefore, some stronger facts are presented, the presumption is against the digestibility and value of woody fibre for human food.

Vegetable secretions next in order. R.

The Establishment of Medical Colleges.

"I have seen the world, and round it
Journeyed much, and still have found it
All the same, where'er I sound it;—
Wiggle, woggle; woggle, wiggle."

Something over a half a score of years have passed since the establishment of the medical department of the Worthington College, in Ohio, the school which, by its opposition to the restrictive policy of the old established institutions, its choice of the Baconian philosophy, and the maintenance of freedom of thought, was well entitled to the designation of an Eclectic institution. This we have been disposed to regard as the first well organized medical institution in our country, advocating the favorite principles and views of those who gave origin to, and have sustained the National Eclectic Medical Association. Since the establishment of the Worthington school and its removal to Cincinnati, institutions applying to themselves the name Eclectic, and claiming the same liberality, have made their appearance in various parts of our country. Many, if not all of these,

were of premature birth. Those who gave them birth were as ill fitted to give them life and healthy nourishment, as were the ignorance and prejudice of the public at large. Two or three of these, by great care and sacrifices on the part of guardian friends, still survive, show yearly more vigor, and promise for their future, health and longevity.

But what admonitions are given in the fate of others, as the Petersburg school, in Virginia, the Memphis School in Tennessee, and the Louisville School in Kentucky? These several movements survived briefly, and died unwept. The reasons are obvious. Those who originated them not only greatly mistook the real wants of the profession, but were, with perhaps a few exceptions, unfitted by their deficiencies in intellectual and moral stamina, and sound medical philosophy, properly to instruct and win the favor of those who aspire to eminence in the profession.

Notwithstanding the unpleasant fate of so many ill-timed and superfluous college movements, and the very evident fact that the welfare of the cause at large demands a reduction instead of an increase of the present number of eclectic schools in our country, many are still laboring with remarkable zeal to start new and separate college interests. To accomplish their ends and satisfy an ambition to be known as *Professors*, without any correct appreciation of the labor, the talent, and sacrifices necessary to build up and sustain institutions of the kind, even under favorable circumstances, they are constantly worrying their friends with meetings and conventions, and are laboring to enlist the cooperation of enough of the less wary and suspecting in their various localities to make sure their prize.

Many who give their influence to, and labor to erect new colleges, act from honorable motives, but the motives of others are mercenary and selfish. The interests of other institutions and the cause at large are not consulted. In fact many seem to have no fixed views of what name or party, or particular interest they would represent, and are anxious only to help themselves to the *honors*, *ease* and *opulence* of professorships. O, the "loaves and fishes!" We are very sorry to see some who have expressed, and do occasionally still express to those of eclectic preferences, great satisfaction with the Eclectic principles of policy, counting, when occasion presents, the favor of Physopaths and others, by denouncing the cause of respectable and rapidly increasing Eclecticism, as decidedly allopathic in its character and tendencies—a no-system reform, &c., &c.

Whether ignorance or dishonesty instigates the course of such, a timely and well-meaning rebuke seems equally necessary. As to those who charge Eclecticism with having no fixed principles distinct

from those of Allopathists, we have only to say, we hope that before they manifest farther such culpable ignorance, they will examine the annual addresses of the National Eclectic Association, in which our principles have been set forth. We hope they will attend the annual meetings of this Association, or the lectures of some Eclectic institution, and become acquainted with intelligent graduates of the same. ECLECTICISM HAS WELL DEFINED PRINCIPLES, and none should prejudge or condemn, until they have examined them. Too many regard the Eclecticism of our class of reformers as an indiscriminate selection of remedial measures, without any fixed principles to control us in our choice. This is truly a great and fatal error. We hope the time is near at hand when our friends and our enemies will understand us and our objects better. The facilities for such knowledge are becoming more abundant. Those who call themselves Eclectics should do so understandingly; and those who think Eclecticism has no principles and no system, we kindly urge to look about themselves. They will find such most definite and unmistakeable. Will such persons please examine, and if they cannot endorse them, please withdraw to Physopathy, Allopathy, Hydropathy, or some other exclusive system more in harmony with their individual views. We would that they were either hot or cold.

To those who would start or see started at present, new colleges, we would say, count well the cost. Every effort of the kind which fails, injures the established institutions, and the cause at large most seriously. Unless you are prepared to labor long and diligently, and at *great pecuniary sacrifice*, engage not in the matter. If you engage all this is in reserve for you, at least so says the experience of those who have made the attempt. L. C. D.

Close of the Spring Session.

The Spring Course of Lectures in C. M. College proved a very pleasant one, and to those in attendance, we believe also very profitable. Although our numbers were not as great as during the winter past, they were still large in view of the immediate succession of the Course on the regular one for the year. All things passed agreeably. In fact, harmony and mutual interest on the part of all, towards all, seem about to become proverbial among the classes in our Institution. And while we are obliged to keep up a "running-fire" with our Allopathic contemporaneosities, and while too many of the veterans in

the Eclectic ranks have not paid sufficient heed to that goodly admonition of the nursery,

> "Let *dogs* delight
> To bark and bite,"

it is certainly pleasant to gather ourselves and those that be "of us" into the College term-time, as into an *oasis* in a great desert, or a green island in a tempestuous sea! We look forward with satisfaction to the coming Winter Session, concerning which we have already had many inquiries, and a fair share of promises of attendance.

The closing exercises of the term just past were held in the College Rooms. After the Degrees were conferred, an excellent and well-timed Valedictory Address was delivered by F. A. WAUGH, M. D., a member of the Graduating Class, and the exercises closed with the presentation of the premium ordered by the last meeting of the State Society, and which was awarded to Mrs. M. K. MERRICK, M. D., and with remarks by members of the Faculty.

The following are the names of the Graduates, with the subjects of their respective Theses:

NAMES.	THESES.
ANSLA F. BOWEN,	Pathology and Hygiene.
GEORGE A. CARSON,	Medical Science.
MRS. MYRA K. MERRICK,	Chemistry in its Relations to Medical Science.
OLIVER G. PRESCOTT,	The Physician's Duties and Responsibilities.
FREDERICK A. WAUGH,	The Laws of Nature.

R.

Apologetic, Communicatory, Etc.

For any lack of interest, or error of judgment in the getting up and filling up of the present No. of the Journal, *we*, (the solitary Editor left at home to attend to the domestic concerns of Journal-dom,) must take refuge in the fact of the absence of our partner in business editorial. But why is our partner absent? Ah! "thereby hangs a tale," which not a few of our friends, the gossips, will be plaguing us to relate, and of which, if they will promise "never to tell," we will say to them in privacy, that the *secret* is pretty plainly hinted at somewhere on our third page of cover. We will barely add further, for the benefit of those who are *hard of hearing*, that our co-laborer, Prof. Dolley, has left the confines of "blessedness in the singular number," and has entered upon a residence in one of the "*United* States."—We wish him "much joy," and hope he may find in his new relation some consolation and support under the hard work he throws away

upon *subscribers who don't pay for the Journal!* We doubt not he will realize great relief,—having ourselves tried the experiment.

We have many subscribers among the *women* of our country—none among the "ladies," that we now think of—women who glory in the progress of the race, and the advancement of scientific, safe and philanthropic medical treatment for the alleviation and cure of the myriad forms of Disease. We are proud of such subscribers, and would be of twice as many more! Besides, they pay up well, and they are hearty in their commendations upon our labors. We presume they are all good "women's-rights men," and therefore we congratulate them upon the fact that *both* the Editors of the Journal are now pledged to their cause, *practically*, as they long have been theoretically. Considering the fact that two of the Graduating Class of last spring have borne the Professor company into the "other world," we think the "woman's-rights" stock must be decidedly rising. It seems a pity the Presidential nominations came so soon!

Our sober, methodical Readers will please pardon the license with which our pen has touched a topic of the time. We cannot keep our *wits medicated into propriety*, always. We think there is a deal of "human natur" in men and things; and though the lancet were at our "*median-cephalic*," (and it never was but once, and then when there was no Medical Reformer within reach,) we should let out our opinion sometimes! R.

Monthly Medical Abstract.

The N. J. Medical Reporter contains an account of two cases in which melted lead, and one in which melted iron was thrown into the eyes of workmen. In one of the former, the melted metal molded itself perfectly between the lid and ball, to the form of the latter, and covered a large portion of the organ. In none of these cases was the sight impaired, or the organ permanently injured.

In London, it is said that a *birth* occurs every seven minutes, and a *death* every nine!

The Massachusetts people are trying to establish a hospital for drunkards. If they enforce the "Maine Law," which they have just secured, their hospital may consist of all "out doors."

A young man in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., had a tooth extracted from which he had suffered dreadfully, and getting no relief, died in a short time.

The human body is said to become highly electric in the Arctic regions, from the dryness of the skin. Friction of the surface produced the electric, or *ozone* odor.

A writer in the Buffalo Medical Journal, reports a case of death of a healthy infant, eight weeks old, from a dose of a *tablespoonful and a half* of undiluted urine. The child first laughed, then became stupid, then convulsed, and died in eight hours. "Domestic remedies," with a vengeance!

Injections of Salt in Intoxication.—Free injections of common salt are said to operate favorably. They bring away some of the poison in the discharges, and act as a stimulant at the same time. They may aid the action of an emetic. There is some difficulty in distinguishing cases of intoxication from affections of the brain, with coma; but although the latter are not readily relieved by the injection, they can receive no harm, but rather benefit from it.

Preparatory Medical Education.—At the recent meeting of the Ohio Medical Convention, Dr. Buchner, of Cincinnati, read a report urging the appointment of committees throughout the State, to examine students in the branches of an ordinary education, before allowing them to enter upon a course of medical study.

Cholera.—The editor of the Boston M. & S. Journal says, "Medication has not accomplished anything in Asiatic Cholera worth recording." Eclectics, Hydropathists, and Botanics, have had no occasion to give such testimony against themselves.

Artificial Feet are now got up in perfection in Palmer's establishment, Springfield, Mass. Some one suggests artificial heads next!

The law disqualifying "irregular" practitioners from collecting their fees, in Louisiana, has been repealed.

Chloroform is said to be a powerful antiseptic and disisfectant.—One two hundredth part in water preserves meat. So says Dr. Auguna, of Constantinople.

Physicians in Boston have not known a healthier time in many years. The same may almost be said of this city.

Collodion and Castor Oil (*old*) are said to be an excellent external application for erysipelas. The varnish may be removed after recovery, by a poultice.

Poisoning by Oil of Wintergreen.—Dr. Gallaher, of Pittsburgh, Pa. relates a case of poisoning by Oil of Wintergreen, (*Oleum Gaultheriæ.*) The patient was a boy nine years old, and the quantity of the oil taken, at least half an ounce. Vomiting, pain in the epigastrium, fever, parched mouth, uncontrollable appetite, and slow, labored and loud breathing, were the chief symptoms. By close attention the patient recovered in two weeks. Treatment: A purgative, followed by injections, cold gum-water, counter-irritants, cupping, etc. Why not first a plentiful warm water emetic, or the use of the stomach pump?

Two cases of Fatty Degeneration of the Placenta, are recorded by Dr. Barnes, in both of which the child was born dead. Another writer mentions three cases of partial *ossification* of the Placenta, in which it is presumable the child was living. In all these cases profuse hemorrhage occurred during gestation, or after the birth of the child, and before the expulsion of the placenta.

Dr. Gairdner in his Treatise on Gout, comes to the following sensible conclusions: "That by exercise, air and moderation in diet,

combined, constitutional disease, and particularly gout, may be avoided and cured; that without them it is vain to hope for more than a respite from suffering for a longer or shorter period, or only even a suspension of the more acute symptoms."

In the "*Union Medicale*" we find the case of a man of 40, treated for *tetanic spasms*, by means of friction with Chloroform, one drachm, increased, over the affected parts, and the acid vapor bath. The patient recovered in five days. R.

Miscellany.

Prof. P. C. Dolley's Address.—The attention of readers is particularly called to this excellent Address in our last and present numbers. Its elevated tone, and lucid and truthful depiction of the intellectual and moral traits desirable, and indeed indispensable to the highest usefulness and success of the physician, are qualities that raise it above all praise. Would that the members of our profession could all draw their social ethics, and their incentives to great exertion, from a kindred fountain!

We are exceedingly sorry to hear that Prof. Dolley's health is not much improved. We learn that he has thoughts of taking a *tour piscatorial*, *geological*, etc., to the Lake Superior regions, and we entertain hopes that he may find the journey a highly beneficial one.—Prof. Dolley is qualified to make a broad mark on the page of Scientific Medical Reform.

Tribute to the Memory of Washington.—The American Medical Association, at its recent sitting in Richmond, Va., passed a resolution to take up subscriptions for the purpose of contributing a suitable block to the National Monument, now in process of erection in Washington.

Washington died of *Quinsy* (!)—*Tonsillitis*, or inflammation of the tonsils—for which he had heroic treatment, including free bloodletting, &c. The disease is one easily managed by far simpler means, and one which need not in any case prove fatal, if taken, as that of the lamented Washington was, in season. Query: Is the "block" now contributed, the memento of an Allopathic *triumph*, or an offering of *penitence* to the *manes* of a good man prematurely snatched from his country and humanity?

Credits to Subscribers.—We have adopted the plan as likely to give to subscribers the most satisfactory view of their accounts with us, of crediting them *to the date* to which their last remittance pays. Our books are kept pretty strictly, and we know the precise standing of the accounts of most of our patrons. If we should make an error now and then in giving credit on our cover, we hope our friends will send us word, and allow us to rectify the mistake. We are very anxious not to credit any one *too much*, and should be seriously mortified to credit any one *too little*.

Speaking of credits, there are names on our books against which we could jot down, some *two*, some *three*, some *three and a half* dol.

lars, with a very good relish! Bear with us friends, (as we know our large list of *prompt payers* will,) with those who do not satisfy their consciences and our scores, we intend to be "instant, in season and out of season." There is a large section with a prosperous people, and brimming over with zeal for the advancement of Medical Reform, from which we seldom get a dollar! Why is this, patrons? What have we done, that you can so complacently peruse us, without the necessity of paying us? Surely we have not committed some unpardonable sin, and outlawed ourselves at once to your sense of honor and generosity?

No Complaint.—Dr. W. W. W., an efficient worker in a good cause, having sent us some clubs, now sends another, with a call for an increased number of *extra copies* of the Journal, and adds, "I always make good bargains, and if you are sick of yours, why back out. I intend to make each copy of your Journal (that comes to B.) worth two dollars to me, and five at least to each one that reads it attentively." We feel no symptoms of backing out, Doctor; on the contrary, we feel ready to make a few more bargains "of the same sort." We furnish 6 copies for $5, 13 copies for $10, 20 copies for $15, and so on. Consequently, any one sending us five dollars, gets *one* extra copy; sending another five, *two more* extra; for the third five, *two more* extra; and for the fourth, *five more*, or ten copies in all, free of charge. And this may afford our local agents some compensation for their trouble.

Dr. Wm. A. Alcott—the well known reformatory writer of New England—a man who has long been retained as counsel in our country in behalf of abused *common sense*, is not dead, but living, and in usual health. It was another Dr. Alcott whose death the newspapers chronicled. I am pleased to learn that my condolence was premature; but far better *so*, than if it had been detraction or indifference.

Pepsin.—I pronounce the Pepsin now so plentifully sold in our Patent Medicine Drug Shops, an *unmitigated humbug*, and call upon all those who would have us believe the contrary, to show wherefore. I have no idea of swallowing "Dr. Houghton's Pepsin"—ugh! My own stomach is none too sweet for my own purposes, without getting a constituent of the Doctor's "gastric juice" into it! But we are told this Pepsin is not from the Doctor's bread-basket, but from the "fourth stomach of an ox." How much nicer, pray, does that make it? From the quantities found in almost every drug store of our wide country, it is morally certain that *all four stomachs* and the *fifth stomach*, too, (which, to save the feelings of our friends, the Pepsin-eaters, we will not name in plain English!) have been laid under heavy contribution to furnish a supply. I may revert to this subject again, when my dinner oppresses me, and I wish to be saving of lobelia! B.

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ORIGINAL COMMUNCATIONS.

"Eclecticism and Exclusivism."

BY WM. H. COOK, M. D.

In the last number of the Eclectic Journal of Medicine, M. M. Rodgers, M. D., defines the two terms which head this article, and concludes that they (the *old school*) are *Eclectics*, while we are *Exclusives*.

The principal argument upon which the Dr. founds the old school claim to the name Eclectic, reads thus:—"If a very small minority of the members of a church take exception to certain articles in the creed, and then secede and form a new church, which excludes the offensive articles, who are the 'exclusives,' and who are the 'liberals?' And does the secession prove the majority to be infidel or heretical?"

By drawing his illustrative argument from church matters, the Dr. has fixed a very smooth bait for the unthinking. In defending the cause which I represent, the Dr. cannot blame me for carrying out his idea, and in his own channel. The true meaning of the argument is, that *the majority is always right.* When Luther made bold to proclaim aloud his views of the Bible, and his dissent from the Papacy, he stood alone, a *single man*, defending his views against *millions*. Certainly this was the smallest possible minority. Now if numbers constitute right, Luther must have labored under the most egregious error imaginable; while the licentiousness and blasphemies of Romanism were by far the most acceptable to Deity, and the most in harmony with Divine teaching. And seeing that the disciples of the religious Reformer were for many years greatly

in the minority, they were greatly in error; but when they became the most numerous, their creed at once became right! And while they were in the minority, all the tortures and persecutions they suffered were but just punishment for their heretical presumption, and the Popes did well in trying to exterminate them. This is the tenor of the Doctor's argument!

And if this argument is correct, what presumptuous wickedness was it for Him, the son of God, the savior of mankind, to attempt to declare *his* teachings to be true, and *his* creed correct, when it was at variance with the creed and teachings of the *whole Jewish nation*. And how blindly mad were his *few*, poor, poverty-stricken disciples, only the *shadow* of a "*very small minority*," when they so firmly adhered to HIS tenets, in the face of the creed held by the hosts of Israel.

And that chosen people of God, the ancient Hebrews, being fewer in number than the Egyptians, it was perfectly just for the latter to place them under bondage. And how blindly in error were they when they still persisted in worshiping the God of their Fathers,—and when they were in the wilderness, and took occasion to make a golden calf to worship, how wicked was that minority, headed by Moses, in still adhering to the Great God, and dissenting from the idolatrous creed of the majority? And how ignorantly blasphemous was Joshua, when he proclaimed that he and his house would serve the Lord, even though the whole host of Israel should do the opposite. Had that leader been a wise and good man, he would have bowed to the lustful and idolatrous creed of the masses, seeing that *Jehovah and he were but a minority!* Are the enlightened millions of the 19th century prepared to receive these things as true? They *must*, if the Doctor's argument is correct.

The fact is, this *majority* idea is one which has come down from barbarous ages. It belongs to a period of anarchy and absolutism. It has always been associated with, and is characteristic of ignorance, selfishness, injustice and tyranny. The Egyptians used it to enslave the Hebrews: the Popes used it to persecute Luther and his followers: the Jews used it to crucify Christ. Alexander used it to carry his conquering arms into the East: the Romans used it to crush weaker nations: England used it in trying to crush America: Austria, Russia and Prussia have used it in extinguishing the nationality of Poland and Hungary: and the Allopaths use it in vainly endeavoring to stop the progress of Medical Reform. Truly this is a most powerful species of argument, and those who resort to it must be peculiarly deserving of the title of "Liberals!"

But puerile and barbarous as this reasoning is, it would have been much better for the Doctor to have used it twenty-five years ago. *Then* we were truly in the minority: *now* the case is assuming another aspect; we are gaining upon them in point of numbers. Has the Dr. forgotten that, in a recent census of the Physicians of Rochester, taken by the Allopaths for the special benefit of their County Society, the committee was under the painful necessity of reporting that the "irregular practitioners" outnumbered them? A good propor-

tion of these are scientific reformers. We do not pretend to say that, in the nation as a whole, we compare with the old school in the number of our practitioners; but we *do* say that the mass of the people is on our side. Everywhere are our disciples hailed with joy.—In every country village, where there is a scientific Reformer, he generally has from four to seven Allopathic opponents, and yet, strange to say, the "*ignorant quack*" does more business than *all* the others! This may sit sourly on the Dr.'s stomach, but I speak from a personal knowledge of the *facts*, not from hearsay.

Of course the Dr. denies the right of the people to enter into a contest of numbers. For he himself says, "What matters it that a proposition is true or false, so far as the public is concerned, so long as not one in a million knows the truth in the premises?" This savors very much of absolutism, and would have done well enough for a Russian official to have used a thousand years ago; but it will not go down with this age and nation. Granting, however, for brevity's sake, that the millions of republican America have no *right* to inquire into the *principles* of every school of medicine, it cannot be denied that they have a right to their own observations and convictions.—And when they repeatedly note the success of our treatment; the *ten* we cure to the *three* saved by Allopathy: the *permanency* of the health of patients restored under our care, and the broken constitutions of those cared for by the *old school*; and when they also see us restore case after case which every grade of Allopathic skill had pronounced incurable, they cannot but conclude that *we* are on the right track. True, our medical opponents think this *observation and fact* plan is a very *vulgar* and improper way to arrive at conclusions.—We think it is a good one, and when they can convince the people that their eyes and ears were not made to see and hear, they will stand a chance to recover the ground which they have lost in the public estimation.

But the Doctor may say that I am unfair in referring to Luther, the Hebrews and Christ, to prove his argument untenable; for these were defenders of immaculate truth. Yes, they were, and every one knows that, before we condemn, we must first carefully inquire whether or not the ideas a person promulgates are founded in truth. Now I have but taken the Doctor as he stands, for when he advances his argument he makes no creeping-out point. His embodiment of the idea that the majority is *always* right, was made without a grain of equivocation, and now if my applications make him sore, it is his own fault. I do not, however, wish to take the least advantage of the Dr., and if it is considered best to first inquire whether or not the creed held by the majority (the Allopaths) is right, I am perfectly willing to do so. But he himself says, *immediately* preceding his argument:—"Here arises a question, (which I shall not attempt to discuss) as to what is *true* or what is *erroneous* in our creed."—Ah, he will not *attempt* the discussion of that question, and yet every one must see that *it* should be *first* settled, and *then* his argumentative illustration advanced. But he backs out of that with premeditated carefulness. No matter if their creed is *true* or *erroneous*, if they

only *outnumber* us, it is enough for them. They will laugh and hoot at us as a handfull of *moonstruck ignoramuses*, but will not reason with us upon a point of *right* or *wrong*. Truly this is a most magnanimous course for this erudite and ancient body of "Liberals" to pursue!

But it has always been thus. Whatever could be done by bluster, ridicule, and slander, *they* have done. They have calumniated us on every possible occasion: they have wilfully misrepresented our tenets and practices in the grossest manner; they have secretly instilled hatred to our cause by every dishonorable means which ingenuity could invent. And truly has *necessity* been to them the mother of unnumbered inventions. Wherever they could accuse us falsely, it has been done, and that too from the most ignorant country practitioner, in the lowest hovel on his ride, up to the *luminaries*, in the saloons of fashion and the halls of legislation. Of a surety the new title of "Liberals" sits gracefully upon *such* shoulders. To listen to them, one would think that the bottomless pit had been opened, and Satan had taken possession of the earth in the shape of *Quack Doctors*. But when we have asked them to reason with us; when we have asked them to settle the dispute by a logical comparison of principles, and a *practical* test of their superiority, they have drawn themselves up in their majesty and refused. Oh yes, we were too *ignorant* even to be reasoned with; it would be an everlasting disgrace to them. An *awful* dignity, that!

Now let me ask every candid mind if this course is just or liberal? Does it show that they have RIGHT on their side? If their theories are "*well established*;" if their principles are founded in *truth*, and their remedies *truly useful*, would there have been need of acting thus? No. They would have come up to the contest at once, stood the test of *ignorant slander*, as they call it, and hushed us forever. The very fact that they have not done this, and will not do it, at once brands their groundwork as being erroneous, and them as being the very antipodes of every thing in the shape of liberality.

On the other hand, *we* have at all times, on all occasions, and *under every disadvantageous circumstance*, been willing and even *glad*, to defend our peculiarities. We have eagerly sought the contest as to *truthfulness*, which they have so studiously and invariably avoided. And now having outstripped them in the success of our practitioners, and gained the favor of the public generally, we attack them with another set of arguments. For despite their most strenuous efforts we have steadily and surely advanced. We stand upon an equal ground as *Doctors of Medicine*; we are protected by the legislature in the collection of our fees; we have gotten legislative charters, privileging us to establish Colleges, and TEACH Medicine; and now we have received legislative grants with which to build and supply our College edifices. Had we been a set of designing ignoramuses, with our practices founded in error, should we have thus earned distinction and favor, and that in a mere jot of time? Of course not. And had their system been founded upon *truth*, with *right* and *liberality*, would they have sunk thus rapidly and that des-

pite the talent, influence and money which they have so lavishly thrown into the scale? No, no. Truth must prevail; and the fact that *we* are gaining, and *they* sinking, proves that this great requisite is on our side. They begin to totter, and cannot longer stand of themselves. Listen to one of their *stars* (Forney, of Syracuse.)—"We are surrounded by a set of quacks on all sides. The legislature—themselves a set of quacks—have given these quacks full swing, and left the Regulars to defend themselves as best they could."—Poor fellows! With all their antiquated erudition they cannot stand alone. Age weighs heavily upon them. We, a poor, unorganized, illiterate set of errorists, have prospered in the face of legislative opposition, until our increasing numbers and popularity *forced* that body to respect us. And *now* we have so sapped the foundation of Allopaths, that they feel they MUST FALL, unless they can be again sustained by *special*, EXCLUSIVE acts of Legislation!!!

Now *we* do not wish to steal any thing from the old school. We fully ackowledge the depth of their researches in Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology, and their skill in operative surgery. But we assert that their principles in the treatment of disease, and the sheet anchors of their materia medica, are wrong to a lamentable extent. This is the ground of our difference; we have challenged, and still challenge them to the contest. They refuse, yet they do not scruple to slander, and misrepresent us, and drawing themselves up in their hoary majesty, they advance arguments and follow practices which would do credit to the character of a Nero or a Pope Alexander. And then they claim, through the pages of one of our Journals, established despite of their opposition, that *they* are "Eclectics," the "*Liberals,*" while we are the "Eclusives," the "HERETICS." Very probable, indeed, that they are not trying to "steal our thunder." We have seen how *deserving* they are of this new title they wish to assume, and now, when we remember that they scorned to lay any claim to this name, until after we had established Colleges, and were *bound* to succeed, we must conclude that their present attempt is similar to that of the Donkey donning a Lion's skin. By clothing themselves in our robes they try to make folks believe that there is not so much difference after all. It is by *this* means that they hope to secure a share of that public favor which, they cannot fail to see, follows the name Eclectic. Truly this is the last act in their grand drama of deceit. But, with all their soft speeches and smooth sophistry, they cannot make it pass. A Jackass will be a Jackass, if he *has* borrowed a Lion's hide; and it requires no great keenness to detect him. Certain long ears, in the shape of Lancets, &c., will surely betray them. Still, notwithstanding their arrogance and deceit, we feel disposed to look charitably upon them, for their minds get *crazed* when they view their approaching and inevitable downfall.

Red Creek, N. Y., July 8, 1852.

Profits of Quackery.—An uneducated venereal doctor in Boston, pays one daily paper, by contract, $3,600 a year for advertising.

Effects of Acids on the Teeth.

BY C. H. CLEAVELAND, M. D.

Not long since, while in conversation with a very intelligent Dentist, he said, that numerous individuals he was called upon to treat, supposed the origin of their defective teeth to be the *medicine*, they had taken during some period of sickness from which they had suffered; but that he had become satisfied that far more teeth became carious, or brittle, or otherwise diseased, from the direct action of acute disease upon the mucous membrane of the mouth, and the gums, and from the suppression of the natural secretions of the buccal cavity—than from any deleterious effect of the medicine the patient had taken.

There can be no doubt, that a high state of inflammation or fever of the general system, as well as a local affection about the mouth or throat, must tend to lessen and finally destroy the vitality of the teeth, as well as to change the nature of the dental structure; and that in most instances when even chemical substances that might injure the teeth have been administered—the medicine did not come in contact with those organs; and that the direct influences medicinal substances may have upon the teeth of patients, is a matter worthy of more attention than is bestowed upon it, by the majority of physicians.

In former times, it was much more common for medical practitioners to rely upon mineral acid tonics for their convalescing patients, than at the present day, yet more recently it has become much more fashionable to prescribe *tartaric*, *acetic*, or *citric* acids in the form of acidulated drinks than formerly, so that the effects of these substances upon the teeth, are highly deserving the attention of the profession.

Some time since, Prof. Westcott placed several teeth in different acids, and if the report be correct, he found the chemical action of acetic acid to be so great, that a tooth immersed in it forty-eight hours was so softened, that the enamel could be removed with the finger nail; and that citric, and sulphuric, as well as nitric acids acted upon the tooth still more readily than did acetic acid. Several other substances, as nitric ether, and sweet spirits of nitre, were found to act with considerable energy upon the dental substance.

Hence we perceive the extreme caution necessary in the administration cf these and similar substances, even when the teeth are sound and free from defects. If there are already cavities formed, still more care is necessary, as when the tooth is not protected by the enamel, it more readily suffers, and besides the offending substance is liable to find a lodgment in the cavity, and remain there but slightly diluted by the saliva until it has had time to do irreparable injury.

The vast importance of these organs in the human organization as masticators of food, and preparers of the nutrition of the system, together with the excruciating agony they are liable to indnce when diseased, would seem to point to them as worthy of the most careful

attention on the part of the physician. Yet it is a truth, that not one physician in ten gives the least thought to them, farther than to wrench them from their sockets, and perhaps a large portion of the jaw with them, by reason of their ignorance or unskillful manipulation, when the pain which results from their neglect, has become too intolerable to be longer endured.

It is not to be expected that practitioners of medicine, will or should become expert mechanical dentists, yet they can and should understand something of the structure and functions of the teeth—what substances are liable to injure them and what measures are necessary to their preservation; and above all things, that they do nothing that will directly tend to destroy them.

In every instance where a physician discovers the necessity of administering any substance that may prove injurious to the teeth, it is his duty to give the necessary instruction to prevent the deleterious effects of his prescriptions, by pointing out the danger, and how it shall be averted by the use of a wash, a soft cloth, or a soft brush, to the teeth and the entire buccal cavity immediately after the medicine has been administered.

In those other cases, when no hurtful substances have been prescribed, yet when sordes have collected about the teeth, or when the secretions of the mouth or the stomach have become so vitiated as to prove injurious, it is also within the province of the physician to give the proper instructions for their preservation. If he fails to do this, it is but just that his patients charge him with the result of his neglect. Yet it is manifestly unjust to say that *every* decayed tooth has been destroyed by Calomel. That drug has enough evil *justly* chargeable to it, to render it unnecessary to make it the *scape-goat* for the sins of other articles of medicine.

Waterbury, Vt., July, 1852.

Active Principle of Scutellaria Laterifiora.--(Scullcap.)

BY W. ELMER, M. D.

SCUTELLINE.—This is obtained from the blue, or as it is usually called Bitter Scullcap. There are several species of this plant, that are used as medicine; but the above is the only kind that contains any valuable medical properties.

It is a common practice when treating on remedial agents, in the light of discoveries, to say, that "this remedy is one of the best," the "most valuable," and "one of the greatest discoveries of the age, etc." Now, it is possible, that I am as liable, as any one, to run into this foolish and quackish mode of expressions: yet expressions of this kind, to the scientific and thinking mind, are disgusting and repulsive. The *scutelline*, is entitled to these eulogies, if any medicine, but it is sufficient to say of it, that it is a valuable medicine.

In its pure state, it is a white powder. The process of obtaining it, is somewhat difficult, and too tedious to insert here.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND USES.—It is indicated in the treatment of *nervous diseases*, especially those attended with debility, which have been induced by the use of tea, coffee, tobacco, alcoholic drinks, or any poison habitually taken into the human stomach. Who has not witnessed the dried and mummy-like appearance of the habitual tea and coffee drinker? How often do we see the emaciated, cadaverous-like, tremulous condition of the victim of intemperance, with palpitation, nervous irritability, all the result of the free use of the above articles. The true physician will never prescribe physic to cure bad habits; but this much he should do, teach his patients to avoid the exciting cause of his disease, and then with proper remedial agents, aid the recuperative powers of nature, in restoring a normal condition of the system. The *scutelline* being a nervine tonic, is peculiarly adapted to this end. It is also useful in the treatment of *tetanus, convulsions, tremors and chorea.* It is generally supposed that no method of treatment is successful in the cure of *chorea;* but in the incipient stages of this disease, the *scutelline* will be found a successful remedy. Dose, one to two grains, from three to six times a day.

A. P. Institute, New York, June, 1852.

Did the Lord take him, or did the Doctor send him?

BY G. H. PRESTON, M. D.

Messrs. Editors:—I wish to make a statement of the facts as they occurred in the following case, and then leave the readers of your Journal to answer the above question.

It was on one of those cold and stormy nights in January, when the mercury had sunk ten degrees below zero, and the infuriated winds were howling about my dwelling, that I was aroused from my slumbers by the loud and impatient rapping of a messenger at my door. He wished me to go immediately and see Mr. P———, a wealthy farmer, residing about three miles from this place. I set out, and after breaking my road through many deep drifts of snow, arrived at the mansion of Mr. P——— just before midnight. Upon examining his case, I found that he had been laboring under an attack of bilious fever for about a week. And that according to the best judgment of his family he had been treated Hydropathically. He had been packed and douched,—warm water emetics and enemas had been administered,—still the bilious matter that had clogged his system remained unmoved. The symptoms then present were as follows: pulse quick and fluttering, tongue dry and covered with a thick brown fur, delirium and restlessness.

I directed that he should be placed in bed, (for he was then in a pack,) and immediately gave him a full dose of the "Anti-Bilious Physic," which was followed by frequent draughts of warm tea, composed of composition and Asclepias Tuberosa, (*Pleurisy Root*) of each three oz., boiling water O j. In two hours the physic had operated pretty thoroughly, carrying off large quantities of dark feculent mat-

ter from the bowels, and relieving the stomach by emesis of considerable bilious matter. The Diaphoretic Powders were then given in 5 gr. doses every three hours, which, together with the infusion, induced free perspiration. And in the morning when I left him, he was perfectly sane and quite comfortable. I continued to treat this patient without interruption for three days, his symptoms rapidly changing for the better. At the end of the three days a change was made in the nurses. A sister had come from a Water-Cure, and being deeply imbued with the one idea system, thought it best to change the treatment. About the same time a brother-in-law returned from New York City. He too advised a change of doctors, but was not for having a *Hydropathist* called by any means. But an *Allopath must be called.* Whilst these two were arguing the necessity of a change of doctors, and neither agreeing to have the other's favorite called, a young doctor, that had lately married into a brother's family, *very generously* offered his services as *nurse.* He too, advised a change of doctors; and although the patient in one short year, had changed his mode of practice from that of Allopathic to Homœopathic and Hydropathic, he now agreed, with the brother-in-law, that it was best to call an Allopath, and was so *very kind* as to go and get an old practitioner of this school to come and see if they were not right.—But this old doctor was an honest man, and plainly told them that Mr. P——— was doing well enough, and that they had better mind their own business. With all due compliments for his courtesy, I must say he was an old *ignoramus,* and the more they let *him* alone, the better *they* would be off. Next they called upon a noted surgeon, who came and examined the patient, and being interrogated as to the character and probable termination of the case, *very* feelingly told the family that the patient had a *very high* fever, tending to *typhus;* and therefore his case was quite *doubtful.*

I would here state that I knew nothing of the above transactions until the eighth morning after I was called. As I entered the sitting room that morning, I saw that all was not right; for those radiant smiles of hope that had usually enlivened the features of the good wife, had now given place to expressions of grief and sadness. Immediately she began to reproach me for not telling her of the dangerous situation of her husband. I told her that I had not considered Mr. P——— as dangerously sick, and that as his fever was then arrested, I saw nothing to hinder him—if rightly cared for—from getting about in a few days. She then told me all that had happened, saying at the same time, that she had had my directions followed strictly until the surgeon came that morning, and told her as above related. I then went into the parlor where the sick man was lying, and for the first time met the young doctor. Without speaking, or holding up his head, he left the room, instinctively holding his hand behind him as if expecting the approach of *boots.* I asked Mr. P——— how he did. He replied that he felt very well with the exception of a slight pain in his head. His tongue was clean and moist, pulse 80, skin moist over the entire body; and so I left him. The next day I heard that he was better; the day after, he was worse again. The third day a

diarrhea set in. His gums were spongy, but that was not sufficient; a decided impression must be produced, or else his fever would run him down. Accordingly the doses of calomel were increased. The fourth day I met a young man just returning from there. The calomel had finally made a decided impression, and he was nicely enveloped in his winding sheet, ready to be removed from thence to his final resting place.

Rushville, June 7th, 1852.

Cleavers (Galium Aparine.)

BY BURTON HUBBILL, M. D.

I notice an article in the last number of the Journal on the properties and uses of the Galium Aparine. As to its valuable properties *the story is not half told.* I have been in almost daily use of it for 26 years, and learned first of its virtues and uses of an old lady, of renowned skill as a practicing midwife. I am never without it, either fresh or dry. I procure it during my extensive travel in the summer months over our wooden country, and often have the article growing upon my premises. Its properties and uses I have frequently explained to the old and young, and recommended it particularly to those who wish a fair and clear skin.

It removes all freckles, as well as lepra, and fulfills all of the indications for which borax is recommended in the article "Borax in Efflorescence on the face," page 251, of the Eclectic Journal of Medicine.

In lepra, efflorescence, eruptions, &c., the diseased parts are to be washed several times a day with the infusion, which is also to be taken internally very freely. If its use is persisted in a sufficient length of time, I regard it a never failing remedy. There are hundreds of my acquaintances who have used, and are now using it successfully for all that it is recommended.

I regard it as one of the best diuretics that comes within my reach. Its medicinal properties are secured and retained with more certainty in cold, than hot water. I always use it in cold water to which it readily yields its virtues.

Amelia, O., June, 1852.

Editorial Correspondence.

MESSRS EDITORS:—I am a backwoodsman, and am glad to say your Journal is penetrating even into the forest, and there displaying its cheering colors. I have been a reader of your Journal ever since its first appearance. I have sometimes been almost in despair for your cause, when I reflect on the mighty influence that prejudice and popularity exert upon the human mind—popularity swaying the fashionable, and prejudice the ignorant. But luckily for Eclectic reform, ignorance can be overcome by the diffusion of knowledge;

and your periodical, backed up by here and there an Eclectic practitioner, is a powerful engine for the accomplishment of this object.

One suggestion I may be allowed. Let physicians give familiar lectures, on Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene, in those communities in which they labor, at times when business is not driving. By such a course they can aid powerfully the cause of medical reformation, do good, secure patronage, and fulfill their high mission as teachers.

Let some one whose heart is warm, and whose battery is well charged, take this subject in hand, and give the profession a *charge* that will make every muscle obey the call. Let the master spirits of Reform work on. The day begins to break, and the sun of Eclecticism is certainly beginning to emerge, soon to eclipse the imaginary star of Homœopathy, and revive to new life the chaos of Allopathy!

I very willingly enclose another dollar for the continuance of the Journal. I wish I could express my delight at its present appearance. I really liked the Journal before, but now it is truly worthy of admiration, breathing forth so much *scientific reform*, and adapted to the real wants of the people. Yours for Reform,

EDMUND YOUNG.

REMARKS.—The Eds. of the E. J. of Medicine appreciate the kind encouragement of their friends, seen in the above, and in many similar communications they have received. They well remember the adage, however, "Self-praise, &c.," and therefore publish but few such encomiums. They prefer that the "works" of the Journal should "praise it." And next to its "internal evidences" of usefulness, they look upon the "material aid," such as friend Young sends, as the highest form of eulogy! There is a natural and necessary connection, in their minds, between *acceptableness* and *recompense.* They hope none of their "delinquent" subscribers will feel hurt at the insinuation; but it is so!

The Eds. have concluded to depart from their general rule, and publish the above letter, because it breathes the right spirit,—benevolent, enthusiastic, progressive. They wish it understood, too, that while their Journal goes forth as the *dry brains*, so to speak,—as a ponderous, plodding *head*, into the field of Reform, it is underlaid by warm and beating hearts, which will give impulse, action, life, and conquest to its otherwise prosy lucubrations. B.

Poisoning.—Two children, under our observation, have lately been poisoned by eating *banana* fruit drops; supposed to contain fusel oil, the ethereal preparations of which are employed by confectioners.—The symptoms were those of cholera morbus, but the cause in both cases was obvious, though only a few drops had been eaten.—*N. Y. Med. Gazette and Jour. of Health.*

SELECTIONS.

Enteritis.

BY GEO. HOYT, M. D.

If we except cholera, I think there is no acute disease more to be dreaded by those who are the subjects of its attack, than enteritis or acute inflammation of the bowels, both from the intensity of suffering which it causes, and the fatal termination to which it often leads. The severe pain, the intolerance of pressure and swelling of the abdomen, the condition of the skin, the frequency, quickness and generally hardness of the pulse, and the costive and inactive state of the viscera involved, all demonstrate its danger. Generally it makes its onslaught when vitality is at its maximum; and though the system offers strong resistance to the destructive principle generally, yet from its exuberance of vital elements, inflammation is quite apt to realize its worst and speediest termination.

Its pathology I do not propose to discuss, it being, I apprehend, well understood by the mass of physicians. It is not to be denied, however, that mistakes touching its identity are not unfrequent.—Either from lack of discrimination or mere carelessness, it is occasionally mistaken for bilious colic—and this error is pretty certain to ensure the death of the patient.

What I propose is briefly to consider its treatment. Taking, then, a *well-developed* case, what has been and still is the practice?

1st. It is usual to bleed from the arm till an "impression" is made; in other words, till the subject is faint from the loss of blood.

2d. The bowels are cupped, blistered and leeched, agreeably to the notions of each attendant, precedence being sometimes given to the local substraction of blood, at other times to counter irritation.

3d. Calomel and opium are administered till the pain is quieted.

4th. Cathartics of calomel and jalap, jalap and cream of tartar, salts and senna, castor or croton oil, or other drastic purges, are given till free dejections are produced. In a few hours, if the patient be not relieved, the bleeding is repeated, and the calomel and opium continued, "*pro re nata.*"

If this practice has been modified to any extent, it is in reference to the pernicious administration of purgatives. No physician can have been an observer of these results, many years, without having witnessed the death of patients from "mortification," where "no physic would operate."

When the intestines are violently inflamed, how is it possible for purgatives to be otherwise than positively injurious in their effects? The peristaltic motion is suspended, and by its restoration only can cathartics act. That they sometimes do so, by no means prove their

admissibility. They may tease and coerce the bowels into action; but this result can never be salutary, its tendency being to excite and increase inflammation.

The excessive depletion, if less dangerous, is scarcely less objectionable. The loss of great quantities of blood lessens the conservation of the system, and though it sometimes relieves, it also prostrates exceedingly. Even were there no other method of controlling the violence of the disease, it would still be an important question, how far the practice should be tolerated.

The exhibition of calomel or opium, in large or small doses, I consider wrong, because unnecessary. They cannot be relied on for permanent results; whether prescribed as an *alterative* or *palliative*, they are exceptionable. In this combination the calomel has a strong tendency to salivation, especially in the disease under consideration.

But there is a mode of controlling this disease, free from the objections to which I have just adverted, the applications of which are safe, salutary and efficient. I allude to its management by the use of water. Permit me briefly to describe the manner in which these results are obtained.

Let it not be forgotten that the case we have in view is one of great severity, which, if left to its natural tendencies, would probably terminate in the death of the patient.

1st. Give the patient no medicine.

2d. Nor food of any kind.

3d. Allow him to drink all the water he desires, in moderate quantities, frequently repeated.

4th. Lay upon a bed, comfortables, of sufficient thickness to absorb a large quantity of water. Over these spread a half sheet wrung from cold water, on which place the patient, folding the extremities over the chest and abdomen. This should extend from the arms to the thighs. If the sheet be so long that, on lapping, it covers more than the abdomen with a double fold, tear off the ends.

Commence the application of cold water, by saturating the fold which lies next the abdomen. This in its turn must be covered by the one from the opposite side. This process continue to repeat till the vehemence of the inflammation be subdued—the while covering the body lightly with blankets.

If during the continuance of this course the patient become chilled, a circumstance which ought never to be permitted, and against which we should be particularily careful to guard, suspend at once the cold water, and fixing the segment of a hoop over the body, next the sheet, as a defence from weight, cover the patient with such additional blankets and comfortables, carefully and closely *tucked* at the sides, as will retain the caloric of the body. A re-action will speedily appear—sooner, possibly, than will be anticipated; a rapid evaporation will follow, which being retained within these coverings, will form a vapor bath, congenial to the feelings of the patient, and adapted to afford present relief. When the heat shall have accumulated to a higher degree than is desirable, the indications of which are observed in the color of the face and frequency of the pulse, again renew the cold water.

ted and dangerous forms. These may be considered the pathognomonic symptoms of the disease, though others are manifested, being however, those generally common to internal inflammatory affections.

The disease may be brought on by cold, or exposure to sudden changes of temperature, improper diet, as unripe and indigestible fruit or vegetables, confinement in close or illy ventilated rooms, the employment of filthy or impure water, the use of tainted meats, or excessive physical labor. By some, it is attributed to an unhealthy condition of the atmosphere, and which is without doubt, correct in relation to the dysentery of 1849-50-51. Other causes have been named, but the above are the most common. The disease does not confine its attacks to any particular season, but is manifested as frequently and as severely during the winter as in the hot months. Its attack is most commonly sudden, commencing at once with the muco-sanguineous discharges and tenesmus; occasionally, however, it has been preceded with lassitude, some febrile disturbance, tormina and diarrhea.

The treatment of dysentery, in the hands of those who have pursued a course similar to that below-described, has been almost universally successful, and we very much doubt, whether an average of one death in fifty, would not be a higher ratio than the results of this practice as far as tested, would warrant. The discovery of the active principles of many of our most valuable medical plants, has resulted in a new era for Eclectic practice, and diseases which at one time required days, or even weeks for recovery, are now cured with unparalled safety and rapidity; and the addition of these new agents to our Materia Medica, has given an impulse, character, and extension to Eclecticism, beyond the most sanguine hopes of its many zealous adherents. In no disease, perhaps, have the beneficial effects of these recent discoveries been so well marked, as in the one under consideration, and so constant have been these happy results, that in all places where Eclectic practitioners are located, we find them taking the precedence of all others. Whatever may be the immediate or remote cause of dysentery, we invariably find the functions of both the liver and skin, very much deranged, and the removal of which is necessarily the first indication to fulfill; consequently, when called to a patient suffering under this disease, with bloody discharges, tenesmus, &c., whether it be of one day's duration, or a week, our first prescription, thus far, has invariably been as follows;

R. Podophyllin, grs. vi.
Leptandrin, grs. iv.
Lactin, ½dr.

Misce, et div. in chart. No. iv. One powder to be given every three hours, until free catharsis is produced. In many cases we prefer the common diaphoretic powders to the lactin, and which has a tendency to correct much of the harshness of action of the medicine.

The above combination, though at first sight appearing heroic, will yet be found most effectual in removing the disease, often within

twenty-four hours from the commencement of its use; it exerts a most powerful influence on the liver and skin, restoring their functions to a normal condition, and causing a free biliary and cutaneous discharge; and, in addition to this, as both the podophyllin and leptandrin act with energy on mucous tissues, besides possessing an undisputed antiperiodic agency, this four-fold power naturally indicates them as the proper remedies, and the successful results following their administration, conclusively demonstrate the correctness of the indication.

It will generally be found, after the third dose, and sometimes not until after the fourth, that the patient will experience for a time very unpleasant and distressing symptoms, but this is not universally the case—there will be present, nausea and vomiting, griping pains in the abdomen, cold sweat, coldness of extremities, great prostration, and copious discharges. These symptoms need create no alarm or uneasiness, and we usually prepare the friends of the patient by informing them of the anticipated effects, directing them, in case of much prostration, to support the patient with brandy sling, or other grateful stimulant, until the purgative operation has ceased. It must be remembered, that it is only necessary to administer the above powders until their decided effect is produced, when they are to be laid aside. With but few exceptions, the termination of the catharsis is followed by the immediate cessation of tenesmus and the dysenteric discharges.

The patient will now be found in a condition, in which it will be necessary to maintain for a few days, a hepatic and cutaneous influence, to restore tone to the debilitated state of the intestines, prevent further discharges, and preserve the antiperiodic disposition already established; for this purpose, I usually administer the following;

R. Sulph. Quinia, grs. viii.
Sulph. Morphine, grs. ¼
Pulv. Ipecac, grs. ij.

Misce, et div. in chart. No. viii. One powder to be administered every two or three hours, gradually lengthening the intervals between the doses, and continuing their use for two or three days.

In by far the greater part of cases, this treatment will be found all that is necessary, as in a day or two the patient will be cured and able to attend to his business. Sometimes, however, and especially among those patients to whom we have not been called until they have suffered under the dysenteric attack for several days, there will be found after the operation of the catharsis, light muco-sanguineous discharges with some tenesmus, for which in connection with the above quinine powders, it will be necessary to administer injections, composed as follows, and one of which should be given immediately after each discharge, requesting the patient to retain it as long as possible.

R. Infus. Hydrastis Can. (cold) 1 oz.
Tinct. Opii. gtt. x. vel. xx. Misce.

Large injections counteract the end aimed at, viz: to allay inflammation, and check the discharges.

If this does not readily remove the symptoms, and the patient's strength will admit, the cathartic must be repeated, but in smaller doses, and if it removes the pain and discharges, to be followed by the quinine powders as before. But if he be very weak, the administration of Port wine one or two drachms, in which is dissolved tannin two or four grains, and repeated every hour or two according to the urgency of the case, with the above injection, will generally effect the cure. Sometimes, I have found much advantage from the following preparation:

R. Tinct. Catechu drs. iij.
Tinct. Camphor.
Tinct. Leptandrin, *aa* dr. j.
Syr. Zingiber, vel Cinnamon, 1oz. Misce.

Dose, a teaspoonful every 1, 2 or 3 hours.

Some practitioners, continue the administration of the podophyllin and leptandrin in minute doses, triturated with lactin, and with excellent results.

Where the disease manifests a disposition to be obstinate—which is seldom the case where Eclectic treatment has been adopted from the first—the stools contiuing bloody and becoming fœtid, with or without tenesmus, inability to retain anything on the stomach, or if retained, followed shortly after by a desire to stool, with much prostration, and indisposition to move or talk, it will be highly important, in addition to the other treatment, to frequently bathe the surface of the body and limbs with an alkaline wash, warm or cold to suit the nature of the case and the patient's feelings, also to apply over the bowels and spine, intermittingly, mustard poultices. The tongue must likewise be observed, if it be coated yellow, brown, or dark, acidulous draughts must be given, as they will in this instance, prove useful, but will be injurious if given when the coat is white. Oatmeal made into a cake with water, then baked, and finally browned similar to coffee, and made into a coffee, will be found not only nourishing, but will often check the nausea and irritability of the stomach when all other means fail. It must be given without milk or sugar, in tablespoonful doses, and repeated sufficiently often. Some practitioners speak highly of a tea of parched corn for this purpose, but I have never employed it. If demanded, acids or sedatives may be combined with it.

During the whole course of treatment, the patient must remain as much as possible in a recumbent position—the erect posture, or much motion, seems to aggravate the disease. In the case of delicate females, or patients of not very strong constitutions, the dose of the cathartic powders, may be somewhat diminished, according to the practitioner's judgment.

Such, in brief, is the treatment which I have pursued both in Memphis and Cincinnati during the last two years, and thus far without the loss of a single patient; and a similar course is now, I believe, generally adopted by Eclectic physicians.

In years past, I have met with considerable success in dysentery by the use of the *white liquid* or *saline physic*, which has in many in

stances effected a recovery where dissolution seemed inevitable, but I have not used it for some three or four years, though I believe it will be found a very efficient remedy. The formula for its preparation is given in the Western Medical Reformer of 1846, vol. VI. No. 3, page 56.

The following will be found a useful preparation for children, suffering under dysentery:

R. Pulv. Leptandrin.
Pulv. Zingiber, (Jamaica) *aa* grs. v.
Pulv. Podophyllin, gr. iss.
Pulv. Creta. Preparat. grs. x.
Pulv. Sacch, alb. 1oz.

Mix, triturate well together, and divide into ten powders. For a child from 1 to 3 years old, give one powder every three hours.—*Eclectic Med. Jour.*

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

The terminations of phthisis next claim our attention. The disease may terminate in *recovery*, and often in so perfect a restoration to health, that the patient attains an advanced age. In the writings of Roget, Hughes, Bennett, Beau, Cruveilhier, and Prus, we find abundant evidence of the frequent occurrence of obsolete and cicatrized tubercles in the lungs of aged persons, who have died from causes in no way connected with pulmonary consumption.

The further progress of tubercle sometimes appears to be checked by *the formation of some other dyscrasia*; cancer and scurvy appear to possess this power. In the great majority of cases, however, the termination is *death*, which may result in any of the following ways:

By gradual emaciation and debility, the vital powers being gently and slowly extinguished. By rapid emaciation and debility in acute cases. By the retention of the bronchial secretion, causing a stoppage of the tubes, great dyspnœa, and dreadful suffering. By hepatization and acute infiltration of a greater portion of the lungs. By œdema of the lungs, usually with considerable suffering. By abundant hemorrhage, causing fatal anæmia. By œdema of the glottis, causing extreme dyspnœa. By perforation of the pleural sac. By inflammation of the meninges, and effusion of serum into the ventricles, giving rise to coma. By softening and attenuation of the walls of the stomach. By perforation of the intestine and acute peritonitis. By chronic peritonitis. By gangrene of the lungs, and gangrenous bed-sores, with the symptoms of adynamic fever. Finally, death may occur suddenly or unexpectedly, without any apparent cause being revealed by a *post-mortem* examination.

We extract from Valleix' 'Guide du Medecin Praticien,' the following diagnostic tables. He adopts the arrangement of Laennec and Louis, and divides phthisis into two periods or stages:

"I. *Positive signs of pulmonary phthisis at an early stage.*—A dry cough which has existed for some time; sometimes accompanied by

mucous expectoration. More or less discomfort in the respiration. Pains in the chest. Nocturnal sweats. Debility and emaciation. Dulness of sound on percussion under one or both clavicles. Weakness or some alteration in the respiratory murmur. Hæmoptysis in a considerable number of cases.

II. *Positive signs of pulmonary phthisis at the end of the first stage.* The cough is more frequent. There is expectoration of opaque, gray, or greenish sputa. Hæmoptysis. Night sweats. Very frequently more or less diarrhœa. More marked emaciation. More extensive and complete dulness. Blowing respiration, sub-crepitant rales increased vocal resonance.

III. *Positive signs of pulmonary phthisis during the second period.* Obstinate cough. Sputa grayish and dirty-looking, opaque, irregular in form, and tinted or streaked with blood. Increased emaciation and marasmus. Extended dulness. Tracheal and cavernous respiration. Mucous rales, gurgling, and pectoriloquy.

The signs of very large caverns are, the cracked-metal sound (*bruit de pot fele* of Laennec,) amphoric respiration, and metallic tinkling.

IV. *Distinctive signs between pulmonary phthisis in its early stage, and pulmonary catarrh.*

Phthisis.—Cough dry. Night sweats. Hæmoptysis. Emaciation. Moderate obstruction to the respiration. Dulness of sound under the clavicle. The respiratory murmur at those points altered. The respiratory murmur normal at the posterior and inferior parts of the chest.

Pulmonary Catarrh.—Mucous expectoration. No night sweats. No hæmoptysis. No marked emaciation. Much more obstruction of the respiration. The sound under the clavicles normal. The respiratory murmer normal at those parts. A sub-crepitant rale at the posterior and inferior part of the chest on both sides.

V. *Distinctive signs between pulmonary phthisis at the end of the first stage, and chronic pneumonia.*

Phthisis.—Is developed spontaneously. Is seated in the apices of the lungs and chiefly at their anterior part.

Chronic Pneumonia.—Is the termination of acute pneumonia. Is frequently seated in the inferior part of the lungs and almost always posteriorly.

VI. *Distinctive signs between pulmonary phthisis and dilatation of the bronchi.*

Phthisis.—Emaciation commences from the beginning. Night sweats. Hæmoptysis a frequent symptom. Frequent diarrhœa.—The stethoscopic signs in the upper lobes. Dulness or abnormal sound corresponding with the position of caverns.

Dilatation of the Bronchi.—Very little emaciation notwithstanding the length of the disease No night sweats. No hæmoptysis. No habitual diarrhœa. The physical signs may be *anywhere.* Sometimes no dullness."—*Bri. and For. Med. Chir. Review.*

Dry Cupping.

BY DR. B. H. WASHINGTON, of Woodburn, Ky.

DR. BOWLING: Please to allow me, through your columns, respectfully to invite the attention of the profession to a few items I have had the good fortune to stumble upon in my practice.

Having heard dry-cupping on the spine very highly recommended for its anodyne, alterative, and emmenagogue effects, by the late Dr. Prather, of St. Louis, and having seen its remarkable effects in his hands, I have used it freely and extended its use, and have never been able to hear or read of a superior remedy, though the last ten years have not been passed in idleness.

As an anodyne, it relieves pain without checking any of the secretions, but on the contrary it regulates the whole system, and brings every organ to the normal standard.

About five years since a negro man cut his leg severely with a broad-axe, midway the tibia. The wound was dressed in the usual manner; but the next morning his wife informed me he had not slept a wink the whole night. There being some eight or ten children in the cabin, I thought it best not to dry-cup him until night. In half an hour after he was dry-cupped he fell asleep, never moved the whole night, and awoke next morning free from pain. The cupping was repeated every alternate night; freedom from pain was the result, and the leg soon healed. In almost every case of bruise or wound, I have used it with signal benefit, and from my experience have not the slightest doubt that, if it was added to the usual water-dressing, at least eight-tenths of the cases where mortification now occurs, could be healed without any such result. Many cases of its anodyne effects could be detailed, but one more will suffice. When called to see a negro woman, found her sitting up in bed; great difficulty in breathing; violent pain in left side, greatly increased on drawing a full breath, or coughing; tongue dry; pulse 125, hard and full; was informed she had had an attack of pleurisy about a year previous, and that the pain was in precisely the same spot. Independent of auscultation, there was something in her looks and actions that convinced me it was not an inflammatory case. I took from a table a large tumbler and applied successively nearly the whole length of the spine. When I was done, she said she was nearly well. To prevent the pain returning, and to assist in arousing the skin, two grains of quinine and two of cayenne pepper were administred, and she was directed to have herself sponged with warm water from head to foot. Next day she was able to walk about well.

Having been dry-cupped a few days after a dislocated shoulder was reduced, I attempted to raise my arm to my head, while the cup was over the origin of the brachial nerves, and found my arms partially paralyzed. It immediately occurred to me that it would be a most excellent remedy for counteracting the resistance of the muscles in cases of dislocation. About six months afterwards, a boy aged seven years was thrown from a horse, and having thrown out his

arm to save himself, dislocated his elbow joint. The dry-cup was applied over the origin of the brachial nerves and the arm was easily reduced, apparently without much suffering; the water-dressing was applied, and the patient soon recovered. In my opinion, if the dry-cup was applied over the origin of the nerve distributed to the dislocated part, instead of the patient being nearly pulled to pieces with ropes and pulleys, as is sometimes the case, the joint could be reduced with far less suffering, and much easier.

Of the alterative effects of dry-cupping, I scarcely know where to begin detailing cases; it is incomparably superior to blue pill or any form of mercury. In January, 1848, I took charge of the case of a woman with chills, who had been in the hands of a distinguished physician for about six months. For the purpose of invigorating her health, so that the chills would *stay stopped*, dry-cupping, with frequent sponging of the whole body with tepid water, was recommended. As a matter of course, the chills were cured, and, moreover, have never returned since. This case is mentioned, not because of the thorough cure of the chills, for in that there was nothing uncommon, but for another consideration. When put in charge of the case, I was informed she had had a tetter on her legs for thirty years, and a great number of physicians had prescribed for her without success. I concluded not to do anything for the tetter until she was cured of the chills; but to my great surprise the dry-cupping had cured that also, and so thoroughly that it has never returned. The cupping was continued every alternate night for about four months. I took the hint thus accidentally given, and have since cured a case of tetter of twenty years' duration, and it continues well; it is now about three years since the cure. Of course, I now recommend dry-cupping in preference to all other remedies, for tetter. If you wish to see the alterative effects of dry-cupping, the first time you ride out to Mill Creek, near your city, call on Mr. Edward H***. In '47 he was not able to walk across the room without a crutch, from rheumatism and an injury in the groin. For about four years he has been walking without his crutch, briskly, too, and can ride on horseback anywhere, while in '47 he could not ride on horseback at all; and a few weeks since he told me that he was in better health than he had been for twenty years. The course of treatment recommended was dry-cupping the whole length of the spine, with frequent sponging of the whole body with warm water. For ulcers it is superior to all salves and oinments, and even superior to water-dressing.

For its emmenagogue effects, dry-cupping can be recommended with equal confidence. I do not believe any case of amenorrhœa or dysmenorrhœa would resist its steady application, accompanied with frequent bathing. Some years since, I had a severe case of dysmenorrhœa, of only five months' duration, however. Feeling anxious to afford prompt relief, a celebrated physician was consulted, but not taking his plan, concluded to try dry-cupping, as I had three weeks to go upon. The cups were applied every alternate night the whole length of the spine, more strongly over the origin of the

nerves distributed to the uterus; and the result was, at the next period, only a slight headache for a few hours was felt, and the second period no inconvenience whatever.

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The glasses commonly used for cupping are too small—tumblers with a thick rim answer much better. Each one should stay on about five or ten minutes, and when it is desirable to produce an impression on a given part, the cup should be more strongly applied over the origin of the nerves distributed to that part. With nervous patients only one or two cups should be applied at first, afterwards gradually increasing the number. If they are applied the whole length of the spine at first, the next day perhaps the patient will not be able to hold his hands still. Like all other remedies, it requires judicious use.

I hope the reader will not consider dry-cupping my favorite hobby; I have one I ride in preference. To any one disposed to verify the above statements, names, dates, and residence will be given on application to me.—*Nashville Journal of Medicine.*

Case of Dislocation of the Femur.

BY J. H. BEECH, M. D., COLDWATER, MICH.

I am induced to send you the following report of a case of dislocation of the head of the femur downward and backward; first, because of the rarity of this accident; and secondly, on account of the perfect adaption of Dr. Reid's femoral lever to the reduction of this luxation:

March 28th, 1852. Was called into the house of Mr. Samuel Otis, about noon, to see his son, aged two years and one month. Learned that, the day before, he was on his hands and knees, when his brother, two and a quarter years older, jumped suddenly upon his back, by which he was instantly brought to the floor upon his face and left shoulder, with the left leg under him. His screams were violent, and continued to be so whenever the limb was moved upon the body.—The mother was obliged to keep him in her arms in a partially flexed position most of the time, and even then he seemed to suffer considerably.

I found the thigh slightly swolen; the toes inverted; and the limb half an inch longer than the sound one, when both were made straight, which gave great pain.

When laid upon the back with the thighs at right angles with the body, the knee was more than half an inch lower than the sound one. Laying upon the face, the body on a pillow, the trochanter major was found farther back than the tuber ischii, and farther from the crest of the ilium, and also, the flatness between the crest and the trochanter, contrasted strongly with the roundness of the other side.

There was no crepitation, nor any difference in the length of the femurs that I could discern. My diagnosis was, of course, disloca-

tion of the head of femur upon the spine of the ischium, or into the lesser ischiatic notch. From the violence of his cries during the examination, I thought an anæsthetic advisable, but as he resisted the inhalation with great energy, it was not persevered in, thinking better to try, first, "Dr. Reid's method."

Accordingly the little patient was laid on his back upon a hard bed, with the shoulders confined by the mother, and the pelvis and right leg held firm by the father, while I proceeded to flex the thigh upon the body, and the leg upon the thigh, (allowing the toes to take their own direction, that of inversion,) carrying the knee over the right thigh in its passage upward. When a little higher than at right angle, I was confident that I felt the head of the femur come in contact with the edge of the acetabulum, upon which, I increased the adduction, and continued the flexion, bringing the knee pretty firmly upon the body, and then allowed it to move outward, upon which a sensation of gentle crushing or sliding, was felt, and the patient altered the tone of his cries very perceptibly. The limb was now brought flat upon the bed and all restraint removed. The position of the toes, and length of the limb, were found to correspond precisely with the sound one, and after remaining quiet a moment he asked to be taken up, but made no complaint as before, on being moved. He now sat erect on the lap with both hip and knee joints at right angles, and said cheerfully, "I aint sick now."

The reduction did not take half so long, and seemed no more painful than my examination had been. My own feelings were so much like "extacy" in the conclusion, that I was "very much obliged" *to Dr. Reid*, notwithstanding all his competitors for the honor of priority in the use of the shaft of the femur as a lever to reduce luxations of the head upward, &c.

If my letter has not become too lengthy, it may possess enough practical interest to be laid before the professional readers. It is most respectfully submitted to your judgment, and I shall not object to seeing it condensed or clipped with severity provided verity prevails.—Perhaps I should add that,

March 30. Patient was comfortable; leg some swollen; has tried to step on it but cried from pain.

May 17. The father says the boy has been as well as ever, for some time.—*Buffalo Medical Journal.*

The facts related in the above report, are of interest, and will serve to hasten the more general adoption of a method of reduction, which was long hid from our good friend Beech, and most of his conservative brethren in Allopathy, by the blindness of their medical bigotry, which would not permit them to believe that anything good could come out of "*irregularism.*" *Our* feelings are very much like "*extacy*" in observing that the Dr. enjoys some of the liberty of "out west," and like many other "Michiganders" is not now frightened at the sight of a "new-fangled notion," which we kindly asked him to approach and examine some years since, but he declined. But then

what wonder? The notion was not caught and tamed by Dr. Reid, and christened with his own name at that time.

That Dr. Reid's claims to priority of the discovery of the method of reduction called above "*Dr. Reid's method*" are surreptitious, has been plainly shown in a previous number of our Journal. To make Drs. Reid and Beech acknowledge this, is probably among the things not to be expected; yet we shall ever believe that men of spirit and integrity, will despise encomiums and aspersions founded upon falsehoods.

Had they and their brethren generally, been more free to imbibe truths which come through "irregular" channels, (i. e., had they been more Eclectic,) not only "*Dr. Reid's femoral lever*," but scores of other valuable measures and medicines, for the alleviation of physical suffering, now unknown and scorned by them, would have been in general use; Allopathy would have saved much of her lost honor; mankind would have been more abundantly blessed by the healing art; fragmentary and empirical systems would all have been starved in their infancy. We have considerable confidence in hyropathy for eliminating from the system "bad humors," and had hoped, that the Doctor since under *cold water* influences, had come around nearly right, and would say with us, Honista quam splendida! L. C. D.

New Test for Mercury.

BY ARTHUR MORGAN.

The following seems to be a novel and hitherto undescribed method of detecting the salts of mercury, either in substance or solution.

If a strong solution of iodide of potassium be added to a minute portion of any of the salts of mercury placed on a clean, bright plate of copper, the mercury is immediately deposited in the metallic state, appearing as a silvery stain on the copper, which cannot be mistaken, as no other metal is deposited by the same means.

By this method, corrosive sublimate may be detected in a drop of solution, unaffected either by caustic potash or iodide of potassium. In a mixture of calomel and sugar, in the proportion of one grain to 200, a distinct metallic stain will be obtained with one grain, which, of course contains 1-200ths of a grain of calomel; in like manner 1-400ths of a grain of peroxide of mercury may be detected, although the mixture with sugar is not in the least colored by it.

With the preparations of mercury in the undiluted state, this process acts with remarkable accuracy; the smallest possible quantity of calomel or peroxide of mercury, such as would almost require a magnifying lens to perceive, placed on copper, and treated with iodide of potassium, will give a distinct metallic stain.

The advantages of this test may be briefly stated as follows:—1st, it is a delicate test, inferior only to chloride of zinc and the Galvanic test of zinc and gold; 2d, it is easy of application; 3d, it requires a very small portion of the substance to be examined, a matter of no small import; 4th, acting on the insoluble as well as the soluble salts, it obviates the intermediate process of solution; 5th, when it acts, its indications are decisive.

As to the disadvantages, the only one which seems tenable is that although it acts on minute portions, still, that must be in a concentrated condition. For instance, though we may detect the 1-1000th, of a grain of corrosive sublimate in a drop of water, we cannot detect it in a drachm; but this may of course be remedied by evaporation.

Now, with regard to the theory of this process, the following seems most satisfactory; that the iodide of potassium forms a solution and easily decomposed salt with the various salts of mercury, that is, an iodide solution in excess of the iodide of potassium.—*Dublin Med. Press.*

Accidental Hirsute (Hairy) Growths.

I had occasion to see, some years since, a child which had at birth a patch of hair on the shoulder, which when the child was about four years of age was nearly as large as the palm of a small hand; the hair was fawn color, and in thickness and in length closely resembled the hair of that animal; indeed, the patch looked very much like a piece of fawn-skin in its natural state. This was attributed by the mother to her having been startled by a fawn which unexpectedly skipped by her. She states that at the moment she involuntarily raised her hand, and touched the part of her shoulder corresponding to that on which the patch of hair described grew.

Dr. F. Bird mentioned to me the case quoted by Dr. Cummin, in his "Lectures on Forensic Medicine." It was published first at Venice, in 1815, and was much discussed in the German journals soon after. In the course of legal proceedings it transpired, that "a lady of twenty-seven, much admired for her beauty, had, on her person. from the breast to the knees, a profusion of black, thick, and bristly hair."

A case is recorded by Mr. South, of a male child, "John Sparrow, born (Sept. 6, 1818) at Longford, in Suffolk, . . . who at the time of his birth was completely covered with hair, and the back of his head particularly with black hair, about the length usual to children of four or five months."

A very remarkable case is recorded in which a female had not only hair all over her body, but also a very profuse and thick beard, and indeed on every part of her face; the description states that it *was* so, and is accompanied by an engraving representing it as being so. It is to be inferred, however, that the limbs were not in the same state, as the hands and forearms are represented as being free. "In the year 1655 was publicly shown for money, a woman named Augustina-Barbara, the daughter of Balthazar Ursle, then in her twenty-second year. Her whole body, and even her face, was covered with curled

hair, of a yellow color, and very soft, like wool; she had, besides, a thick beard that reached to her girdle, and from her ears hung long tufts of yellowish hair. She had been married above a year, but then had no issue. Her husband's name was Vaubeck; he is said to have married her merely to make a show of her, for which purpose he travelled into various countries, and among others visited England. —*London Lancet.*

Chloroform in Obstruction of the Bowels from Spasms.

BY D. J. CAIN, M. D.

Every physician meets, in the course of his practice, with cases of obstruction of the intestines, which have come on gradually or suddenly, generally, from some cause of irritation existing in them. The obstruction in these cases consists in spasmodic contraction of a portion, or of portions, of the intestines, generally the small. The plan of treatment which I formerly pursued was, to cease all attempts at forcing a passage by means of cathartics, if one or two brisk cathartics failed at the commencement, and to resort to opium freely, enemata of warm water, melted lard or butter, sweet oil, etc., the warm bath, fomentations to the abdomen, and other means of inducing relaxation. For more than two years past, I have used chloroform, as a more powerful agent than opium and its preparations, and as more certain in relaxing the muscular system. The chloroform, administered in inhalation, soon produces a greater or less degree of relaxation, and, taking advantage of the relaxation thus affected, I give enemata, either stimulating, mucilaginous, or oily, which in a short time bring away fecal matter. The inhalation may be repeated as frequently, as in the judgment of the physician, the case demands.

Chloroform possesses the immense advantage over opium, of relieving effectually and promptly the pain, and in not leaving the bowels in a constricted state, the sedative effect soon passing off.

Seven cases have been thus treated by me, with highly satisfactory results. In one case, only, have I experienced any difficulty in inducing the requisite degree of relaxation of the bowels. The subject of this case was very slightly suceptible of its influence; but the pain was completely relieved by frequent inhalations, and the obstruction gradually overcome.—*Charleston Medical Journal*

Indelicacy in breathing Impure Air.—Persons who are fond of frequenting unwholsome crowds, such as the warm, full theatre, or dancing assembly, ought, says Trotter, to be informed, that nothing is so indelicate as to breathe *respired air*, or that exhaled from the lungs of other people. To drink of the same cup, is the height of politeness, compared with this custom.

Fresh air, active excercise out of doors, regular hours, plain light aliment, frequent ablution, a well regulated mind, and animated piety, are the best cosmetics; they give a charm superior to all the blandishments of art and tricks of fashion.

On the Treatment of Neuralgia.

BY LANDON RIVES, M. D., of Cincinati.

Most practioners use opiates to produce an anodyne effect; and in this, I think, the fault usually lies in the treatment of this affection. When opiates are used with persons of good constitution, they may effect their anodyne influence, but if administered to persons of debilitated constitution and nervous temperament, laboring under neuralgia, the excitant effect will more than counterbalance all the good which can be expected from the subsequent sedative operation of the medicine. The functional derangement in this disease is an exalted sensation—hence it is wrong to administer a medicine which excites, even in its primary action—for, although the secondary action may be the one desired, the primary excitation will irritate the diseased tissue, and render the subsequent paroxysms much more violent. A more appropriate, and in my hands a much more efficient remedy to meet this indication, is small and frequently repeated doses of hyoscyamus. This medicine, unfortunately, is not always kept of a good quality in the shops; hence, care should be taken to procure a good article. With a view to prevent the recurrence of the paroxysms, there can be nothing used more efficacious than quinine. It has been my good fortune to cure a number of cases of neuralgia, with sulphate of quinine and extract of hyoscyamus, given in doses of one and a half grains each, at periods of from two to four hours during the intervals of the paroxysms. It is often necessary, and I may say, generally well to premise this course, by some gentle cathartic. I have sometimes relieved the pain and cut short the paroxysms by a pill of two grains of extract of hyoscyamus alone.

If the distinction is properly drawn between neuralgia and those affections only involving the neurilemma, and a sedative anodyne, instead of an excitant anodyne used in connection with quinine, this disease will cease to be an opprobrium to medical science, and its treatment will become much more satisfactory to the practitioner as well as to the patient.—*Western Lancet.*

BATHING.—Nature indicates the season just arrived as the one when frequent ablutions are conducive to health, by frequently removing from the surface of the skin, the accumulations that result from its functions. We do not approve of living in the water, because it is agreeable in hot weather; and it is quite certain that the practice, in extremely cold weather, of leaping from a warm bed and suddenly extracting all the caloric by cold water, has been ruinous to multitudes of delicately organized ladies. They speak with delight of the reaction of the blood, the after glow: but the demand upon the vital apparatus to bring that about, vitiates the complex machinery of life, after a while, and a debility follows which can only be overcome by abandoning the luxury that produces it.

Travelling for Health.—Nothing contributes more to the general advantage of the organic machinery of the body, than occasionally varying the scene in respect to air, water and regimen. Travelling operates most beneficially upon the mind, and all the animal functions are influenced by the condition of the mental operations.—Mountain scenery, nature in her wildness, and the fields in the beauty of their cultivation, have each a specific action on the temperment and feelings. However unconscious we may be of the fact, men were designed to travel, inspect and improve the surface of the earth. If they had been perpetually confined to their homes like the domestic animals, no advances would have been made in civilization; commerce would have been unknown, and the globe still unexplored. It is in accordance with our nature, to extend our circle of aquaintance with society and with things, and on the observance of this primitive law depends all progress in art, science, religion and humanity. On this principle, it is conducive to stability of health to travel; and whether one is sick or not, it is by no means necessaay to seek an apology for going abroad and admiring the stupendous works of God, or the surprising achievements of man. While we are well we should travel that we may keep so. Those who can, should improve this charming season for the purpose. It is good for the well, and better for invalids of all description. No charity would diffuse equal happiness, nor really prove more beneficial to thousands of feeble, pale, sickly young women, the victims of incessant toil with the needle, who have but a few luxuries and no privileges, than giving them the means of making excursions and breathing the fresh country air. We should be rejoiced to hear that some benevolent man, whom God has placed as steward over large possessins, had obeyed the command of loving his neighbor as himself in this respect.

Gargles of Sanguinaria Canadensis in Scarlatina.—Dr. ROBERT G. JENNINGS, in an article in the *Stethoscope*, on Epidemic Scarlatina, in which he had employed gargles of sanguinaria canadensis, makes use of the following language.

"In bringing this communication before the public, I wish to call the attention of the profession to the use of the infusion of sanguinaria canadensis in vinegar as a gargle in scarlatina. I have never seen it recommended in any treatise on that disease, and from recent experience, regard it as superior to any gargle I have ever used, especially when the larynx is seriously implicated. Put half an ounce of the root, sliced, into a pint of vinegar, and shake it frequently, and the preparation will be ready for use in a few hours. The writer will be gratified if he can contribute to bring into more general use this valuable medicine, which has shared the neglect heretofore too much manifested towards all the articles of our native materia medica."

VICE needs every discouragement to prevent its seeds from growth, and it would be happy if man would consider, that he *cannot long enjoy health with a poisoned mind or an upbraiding conscience.*

EDITORIAL.

Cholera.

As considerable agitation exists in various parts of the country, from threatened and existing visitations of epidemic cholera; we have thought it best to give our readers briefly at this time, our views of its pathology and treatment. Spasmodic or Asiatic Cholera, is neither inflammation nor fever, as the distinctive phenomina of both these conditions are absent not only before but after death, in cholera cases, and the most successful plans of treatment authorize us to infer that the disease does not consist in vascular excitement, either general or local.

The evidence is abundant that cholara is primarily a neuropathic condition; is a *great want of innervation*, arising from peculiar influences upon the garglionic nervous system, or the nerves of organic life. The diminution of the centrifugal forces of the system, the consequent contraction, and inactivity of the capilliaries, the morbid accumulation of acid in the primæ viæ, the internal vascular engorgement, particularly of the stomach and the whole of the alimentary tract, and the heavy drain through these from the vital fluids of the body, are but the consequence of this diminished healthy nervous influence in the organic nerves. This great depression of the powers of organic life, which overwhelmes the capillary system, the heart, and the lungs with morbid action, has been ascribed to a great variety of causes, by some to an excess of carbonic acid or ammonia in the atmosphere, by some to the presence of ozone, animalcules, &c., &c., by others to a deficiency of electricity, to changes in the relation of planets, and cosmical influences, to telluric currents under the ground, &c. It is well established that important electrical variations always attend the invasion of the disease, and that its march follows the ordinary declinations of the magnetic needle, its birthplace having been where this declination it at zero. But it must be acknowledged that we are yet deeply ignorant of the precise medium through which the irritation or shock is imparted to the nervous system of organic life, a shock which in some rare instances has proved fatal without vomiting, purging or spasm, and which, in crowded and

filthy places, takes on an infectious character. The precursory period of cholera is usually attended with a weight or sinking at the pit of the stomach, and looseness of the bowels. The discharges are at first bilious, and of natural odor, and if no tchecked are soon followed by the rice-water evacuations, which is the most characteristic symptom of real cholera. Vomiting and cramps occasionally usher in the attack; sometimes vomiting and purging, but usually, vomiting precedes the spasms. Augmented thirst, blueness and shriveled appearance of the surface, fingers and toes, cold tongue, cold breath, extreme faintness of the pulse, and suspension of the secretion of urine, are the symptoms which mark the stage called collapse.

Treatment. We are greatly astonished that, in the face of the extensive and melancholy experience possessed by the profession at large, in the treatment of this dreadful scourge, so many adopt and advocate measures most grossly barbarous and empirical. We have medical men in the city of Rochester who still affirm that bleeding is the remedy for cholera; and the recent deaths of several of their unfortunate patients, speak loudly of their faith and their works.—Strange enough that the past history of Allopathic treatment of cholera in this city and elsewhere, has not yet convinced the physicians and public, of the foolish destructiveness of this, and several other should-be obselete measures. One very able Allopathic writer remarks, "the blood is unnaturally thickened, to be sure, grumous, and probably carbonized; but will the removing of a small column of venous blood change the condition of the rest of the sanguineous fluid, or give energy to those nerves, which under a poisoned influence have ceased to perform the important function of giving life, action, and energy to the whole system?"

If the character and the success of the treatment pursued by the physician in our city, who reports recently several cholera cases, is such as our citizens will submit to, we can but say alas! for the public for whom Doctors and cholera are contending,

"For cholera kills, and doctors slay,
And every foe will have his way."

Heaven grant, that before many shall fall by the onslaught, they may watch and understand better the blows of the death-dealing combatants!

When the ablest writers admit that there is, in cholera, neither inflammation of the bowels nor general fever, when the powers of life appear depressed to the lowest degree, when the functions of the sys-

tem are suspended, the natural heat of the body gone, and the pulsation of the heart almost extinct, from the loss of the fluids consequent on the purging and vomiting, strange that the nervous and all the vital forces must be still farther weakened by abstracting the vital fluid. No wonder the Boston Jour. says, "*only a moiety recover* out of the millions who have been attacked." Under such management no wonder that "*five out of the seven died*" as recently reported by a Sangrado not one thousand miles from Rochester. We have not now time to charge the calomel band, escorted by the troop of opium foragers, and the smaller file of leechers and blisterers, in the medical army, but we cannot forbear throwing into the *Brigade* of the Bleeders the remarks of a very sensible writer for the Boston M. & S. Journal, found in vol. XLI, No. 3. "*In cholera a morbid drain of the fluids—a drain of the most unmanageable and debilitating kind—is one of the chief symptoms and dangers characterizing the disease This drain has hitherto produced, or is abont to produce, the most frightful vascular collapse. To add, then, to this, by the use of the lancet, seems MADNESS. The measure can only be indicated by an insane, hap-hazard resolve to do something in the desperate circumstances of the case, without reflecting whether that something be consistent with common sense or not. Better far do nothing. It would be safer for the patient, and the medical man would have less to accuse himself of on retrospect. We believe therefore that in every case in which a patient recovers from cholera, on whom the lancet has been used, he is saved in spite of, not in consequence of the means.*"

No wonder the editor of the New Orleans Medical Journal asks, "are not the various plans of treatment recommended, so many systems of empiricism?" and "appeals to the long list of the millions of the dead, who have succumbed to the direful scourge, for a reply to that grave question."

The Prophylactic or preventive measures of treatment are all embodied in TEMPERANCE, CLEANLINESS, VENTILATION, and FEARLESSNESS. Excesses in eating, and drinking, of all kinds, should be shunned. Meat suppers, and all rich deserts, ice cream, cold drink and acid liquors, as well as poor diet, and impure water should be scrupulously avoided. Changes or innovations upon the manner of living should not be made too suddenly. Rice, potatoes, and most ripe vegetables may be eaten, but green cucumbers and corn should be avoided.—Wet and insufficient clothing should be avoided. Bedding and clothing should be daily exposed to the air and sun. Flannel about the

abdomen, is thought to be protective; extremes of heat and cold should be shunned; cold baths should be applied to the whole surface daily, followed with friction.

Crowding of persons within apartments especially during sleeping hours should be avoided. Humidity, as well as every thing which lessens the vitalizing action of atmosphere, as vapors of lime, tar, tobacco, chlorine, &c., should be avoided. Fear and every thing calculated in any way to depress the physical and moral energies, strongly predispose to cholera. Constant thought of the disease, and presentiment of seizure, should be avoided, and a calm and cheerful state of mind maintained.

Treatment in the Precursive and Invasive stages, &c.—Tinc. of camphor, frequently administered in one or two drop doses, has proved itself valuable in the precursive stage. A valuable preparation for the sinking and weight in the stomach, before there is a great amount of nausea, or looseness of the bowels has made its appearance, is

Sudorific Tinc. and Tinc. of Prickly Ash berries, *aa* two ounces,
Quinine, two drachms:

to be administered in teaspoonful doses, at intervals depending upon the urgency of the symptoms. If there is diarrhea, give the compound Tinc. of Guaiac, prepared by adding gum guaiacum, cinnamon, and cloves, of each pulverized one ounce to a quart of best brandy, in doses of from one to two teaspoonsful. Equal parts of the neutralizing cordial (or extract) and Tinc. Xanthox. frax. bac. (*prickly ash berries*) or comp Tinc. of Myrrh, is found a very prompt and efficient remedy in any of the earlier stages of the disease. After the invasion of the disease, if there is much nausea or vomiting, or evidence of morbid accumulations in the stomach, we may commence with the administration of an emetic. The act of *full vomiting* is one of the most powerful means for driving the blood from the trunks to the capillaries—from the internal organs to the periphery of the body. It is well known to be, also, the most universal excitant of the secretions of all of the glandular structures. Nausea and retching without full vomiting, serve rather to depress the powers of the vascular and nervous system, and instead of impelling the blood with great force into the superficial vessels, rather prevent its flow to the surface. Full and free vomiting should be induced by the acetous emetic 3 parts, tr. xanthox, 1 part. This will frequently change the whole appearance of the case, remove the unfavorable symptoms,

and place the patient in a state of rapid convalescence. In commencing the administration of the emetic, the feet should be immersed in water as hot as the patient can possibly bear, the temperature of which should be constantly maintained by the frequent addition of more hot water. After this, strong mustard sinapisms should be applied to the feet, ankles, wrists, and indeed nearly the whole surface of the extremities, and also a large one over the whole abdomen. Wilted horse-radish leaves may be substituted for the mustard when convenient. Before the application of these, the whole surface may be thoroughly rubbed with a mixture of equal parts of capsicum, mustard, and salt, well ground together when dry. The patient should be kept in the horizontal posture and covered with blankets, and if free healthy perspiration is not readily secured, surrounded with bottles filled with boiling water. Follow the mustard plaster upon the abdomen, with large cloths wrung from hot water, and change them very frequently. The compound Tincture of Guaiac, already mentioned, may be administered every twenty minutes, alternating with the neutralizing cordial, tr. xanthox, tr. camphor, sudorific tr., or Hunn's Antispasmodic mixture, (which is prepared by adding one ounce each, of the oils of cajeput, cloves, peppermint and anise, to two ounces of alcohol,) as may be thought most applicable. As soon as a sufficient amount of moisture upon the surface is secured, the evacuations and crampings cease. The perspiration when once secured should be maintained for eight or ten hours, the patient may then be removed from his wet clothing, washed off with hot weak ley and spirits, or hot water and salt. Besides keeping him warm and comfortable, it is many times necessary to follow with mild tonics and stimulants, to prevent a relapse.

Few medicines seem to possess more valuable properties for the treatment of this disease than the Tinc. of prickly ash berries. During the prevalence of cholera in Cincinnati, it was used and extolled most highly, by every Eclectic practitioner in that city. Of it Dr. Morrow remarked, "when given in the early stages, it would frequently relieve in from ten to twenty minutes. He had used it in doses of from two to three table-spoonsful. In cases of severe spasms, vomiting, prostration and profuse rice water discharges, he had given half a tumbler full at a dose with benefit." Where the stomach is very irritable it may be given in enemas with advantage.

In cases of violent spasms, or partial collapse *Hunn's Antispasmodic* mixture should be given in large doses, from one to two tablespoonsfull in hot brandy and water, sweetened, every ten minutes.

These directions are sufficiently full for our present purposes, and with them, our readers are prepared to meet fearlessly this scourge, and strip it of its terrors. It should be remembered that the prominent indications in its treatment are to secure an equilibrium in the circulation and excitability, and a healthy perspiration. The judicious application of the principles and measures above pointed out will not often fail in the accomplishment of these, as has already been proved by abundant experience. It was our purpose to give experience in a few individual cases, but will only present some of the statistics of the cholera practice of the Eclectic physicians of Cincinnati, during the month of June, 1849. Drs. Morrow and Hunt report 180 cases of cholera, and 75 of cholerine, with seven deaths. Drs. R. S. and O. E. Newton 102 cases, with four deaths; of twelve cases of collapse nine were cured. Dr. J. Borton 135 cases, and one death. Dr. A. Brown 55 cases, and two deaths. The mortality of 1503 cholera patients treated by Eclectics during that year in Cincinnati was sixty-five, or four and one-third per cent, six or eight times less than the lowest mortality under the bleeding, calomel and opium treatment. It is well known, that owing to the superior success attending our practice, the cholera hospital was taken from the care of Allopathic physicians, and placed in the hands of Eclectics. Similar success has followed the Eclectic practice in other places, yet how slow are many who claim for their system not only antiquity, but orthodoxy and science, to investigate its claims. L. C. D.

Physical Science of the Human Body.

FOR GENERAL READING.—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 303.

Having in my last, considered the nature of vegetable *structure*, or of those substances, Dextrine, Cellulose, and Lignine, which have to do with the making up of *cells, tubes, fibres, &c.*,—the frame-work, or *anatomy* of the plant,—I come, next in order, and according to promise, to the subject of the SECRETIONS formed by growing vegetables.

My Readers are all, doubtless, familiar with the term *secretion*, as applied to the animal system. They know that to secrete, is to separate; and that an animal secretion, is a peculiar product separated from the blood or general nourishing fluid of the animal. Thus, Bile is a secretion furnished by the Liver; Urine, another, furnished by the Kidneys; Mucus, a third, thrown out upon the mucous membranes;

and so on. Now all these various secretions are drawn by their respective organs directly from the circulating blood. It is probable, however, that in no case is the act of secretion a simple separation of matters pre-existing in the blood; but that while each organ is engaged in drawing off its peculiar matters, it also elaborates, or *works over* some or all of them in a greater or less degree, and thus presents them slightly changed in quality, and perhaps largely so in appearance, as the various secretions.

But plants secrete, as well as animals. Plants, indeed, secrete *before* animals; for it is only in the secretions of the former that the latter find their first, original and unfailing store of nutriment. The growth of the plant is the great primary fact. Every fibre and atom of organized animal structure, now living, or that has lived, according to the received physiology of our day, was originally wrought out, elaborated, created we may say, by the growing plant. "All flesh is grass"—i. e., vegetable in its origin. Thus, Science still confirms Revelation, where we understand the latter; or enlightens us, where we do not.—Relative to the difference between the vegetable tissues and secretions, we may take the following

Illustration.—Suppose a considerable slice of empty and dry honey-comb could be picked apart, in such a way that each particular honey-cell should be found separate, but complete in itself.—Now suppose these cells to be made quite spherical, or oval, their walls to be made extremely thin, delicate, and filmy, and perfectly uniform or homogeneous, without any opening large enough to be perceptible to the eye, but each having a good-sized shut *cavity* or chamber within, and we should have a handful, or so, of very peculiar little *capsules*, or *sacs*, or in the language of Physiology, of *cells*. Now suppose these cells, under the wand of some sly magician, to be suddenly reduced down to anywhere between the 1-300 and 1-5000 of an inch in diameter, each, so as wholly to escape the eye, and require the aid of a powerful microscope to show their proportions and mechanism, and still to retain their filmy coat and distinct cavity within them,—and farther, let us suppose each of these minute cavities to have within itself a little kernel, or *nucleus; much more minute*, and likely to be seen adhering within at one side to the filmy coat of the cell,—and we now see the agency by which the plant-secretion is formed, and may appreciate the difference between the secretion and the tissue.

The little cells, such as I have endeavored to portray, are found clustered together in various parts of plants, as in the pith, the bark,

and especially in the *seeds*, *fruits*, *tubers*, and other underground stems; and here they are held together by the glutinous nature of their own walls, by miniature fibres winding among them, by tubes, and so on. All three of these forms, cells, tubes, and fibres, are tissues,—vegetable structures. But when in the growing plant we open the cells, we find some peculiar substance stored away there; like honey in the honey-cell. That substance, whatever it be, has been drawn from the circulating fluids of the plant into these cells, either by the vital power of the membrane, or nucleus, or more probably, of both. It is the plant's secretion,—an infinitesimal collection of sugar, or starch, or albumen, or some oil, fixed or volatile, or Quinine, or Podophyllin, or one of ten thousand things, patent-righted in Nature's great laboratory, and made in this her tiny alembic, inimitable and unmanufacturable by any skill of Man, and daintily stored away here to be the food of a world of men, and the poison of millions who are so unfortunate as to choose amiss among Nature's mixed and contrary gifts!

Some of the vegetable secretions will now be named, singly, or in classes.

8. Starch.—This product of the vital action of plant-cells is very abundant,—next in abundance, in fact, to woody fibre itself. Different species of wheat contain from 40 to 75 per cent. of starch; Indian corn, 75 to 80; rice, still more, being from 84 to 85; potatoes, 18 to 15 per cent. It is abundant in the pith of the sago palm, from which it is obtained in a peculiar form and known as *sago*. So from the Jatropha we get another form of starch, known as *tapioca*, and from the Maranta another, known as *arrow root*. It is found in all vegetables and fruits, more or less, and in larger quantities in nuts. Its properties and uses are well known.

In nature, Starch is always found in what are called granules, or starch-grains, but what are really cells. The membrane of these cells is tenacious, and hence, in uncooked food the starch-grains often pass through the alimentary canal undigested. They thus fail to afford nutriment, and besides may irritate the mucous membrane, producing Diarrhea, or Dysentery. Food which is mainly starchy, should always be well cooked, as a high heat expands the minute quantities of gases confined in the starch-grains, and ruptures the membrane of the cell, thus allowing its contents to be freely acted on by the secretions of the digestive organs. Starch may be converted into sugar, either naturally, as the starchy green apple becomes sugary when ripe, or artificially, by boiling with a little acid. The plant often converts it into Dextrine, and finally into *wood*. Thus the starch of the planted Potato, reappears as cellulose, or woody fibre, in the growing stems.

9. Chlorophyll.—Little is known of this substance. It is found in grains like starch-grains, but *green*. Its composition is the same with that of starch, i. e., $C_{12} H_{10} O_{10}$. It gives greenness to the leaves and young bark. It is only formed under the influence of light; and its plentiful presence in the proper parts of the vegetable, gives evidence of the favorable action of that agent, and of the health of the plant.

10. Gum.—This secretion, more or less pure, is obtained from many trees and plants, from some of which it exudes naturally, or after incisions into the bark. Several sorts are obtained from varieties of the Acacia. and are known as Gum Arabic. Gum is found in the roots of the Mallow ; and in wheat, and other grains. It is nutritious. Its medicinal and other uses are well known. Its composition, according to Mulder, is C_{12} H_{10} O_{10}.

11. Cane-sugar.—This product of plant-action is found abundant in the cane, the maple, and the beet-root. There is much of it also in wheat and other grains. The Creator has so established the laws of vegetable life, that most of the various substances suitable for human food, have here and there a sugar-cell scattered through the cells containing more tasteless ingredients, so that we may be stimulated to masticate and comminute our food thoroughly; and, while hunting for these hidden sweets, better prepare the mass for the action of the digestive organs. Not only sugar seems to answer this purpose, in fact, but many acids, pleasant volatile oils, and other flavors. When we neglect to enjoy these rightful luxuries, we do so in violation of the healthy instincts of our nature, and that is in violation of the laws of God. Ask the Dyspeptic whether these laws are without their penalty! It is wise in us to love luxuries—*as God has prepared them!* The composition of cane-sugar, uncrystalized, is, according to Johnston, C_{12} H_{10} O_{10} : crystalized, C_{12} H_{11} O_{11}.

12. Grape-sugar.—This is the sugar of fruits,—specially abundant in grapes. It is commonly associated in fruits with compounds of Potash. It is found in honey, in nuts, and in Diabetic urine.—Crystalized, it contains C_{12} H_{14} O_{14}. It is less *sweet*, *soluble*, and *crystalizable* than cane-sugar. The substances now named are those known as *farinaceous*, and *saccharine*.

But I must not dwell longer, at this time ; and will simply enumerate some other classes of vegetable secretions.

II. Vegetable Acids ; as the Oxalic, found in sorrel and rhubarb; the Tartaric, in grapes, &c. ; the Citric, in Lemons, &c. ; the Malic, in apples, &c. ; the Acetic, in germinating plants, &c. ; the Tannic, in astringent barks and roots; the Gallic, in the same; and other acids.

III. Fixed Oils ; as Olive, Palm, Castor, and other oils ; the first two nutritious ; the third, medicinal. Oils of various nuts may be added.

IV. Volatile Oils ; as those of Cinnamon, Cloves, Rosemary, &c These, with the fixed oils and acids, are composed of two, or more commonly three, of the elements already named, C, H, and O. Certain pungent, offensive volatile oils, as those of mustard, horseradish, hops, onions, asafœtida, &c., contain Sulphur also.

V. This class may include the Resins, Gum-resins, Balsams, Caoutchouc, &c.

VI. Some coloring matters ; as Indigo, &c.

VII. Some proximate principles of medicinal herbs.

But the list of vegetable secretions is by no means yet complete. Some of the most valuable for food, and the most potent for poisonous or peculiar influence over the human system, are yet to be named. The Reader will perceive that, with a single exception in which Sulphur enters as an ingredient, the various classes of substances now named are wholly made up of some or all of the three elements, Carbon, Hydrogen, and Oxygen. But those classes yet to be named contain a fourth element, Nitrogen; and many of them a fifth, Sulphur, or even a sixth, Phosphorus. These will be left for my next.

R.

Notices of Periodicals.

RANKING'S HALF-YEARLY ABSTRACT OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES: Being a Practical and Analytical Digest of the Contents of the Principal British and Continental Medical Works published during the preceding six months; &c, &c.—Republished in this country by LINDSAY & BLAKISTON of Philadelphia, 25 S. Sixth Street, at $1,50 per annum. (From the Publishers.)

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Those who are willing to "seize upon truth wherever found," will secure much of that valuable commodity in the pages of this Journal; although we will not say but that it is somewhat "diluted" at times, and some parts of it, by peculiar triturations, have become "potentized"

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*The Editor will surely not "decline" our friendly notice. We think it "indeclinable!"

a little above the range of our comprehension. To the numerous class of those who combine Homœopathic and Water treatment, this must nevertheless be a very valuable periodical.

THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN: Published by Munn & Co., 128 Fulton St., New York. Each volume containing 416 pages of closely printed matter, with from *four to six hundred* engravings, and specifications of patents. Weekly. Terms, $2,00 a year.

The value of this scientific periodical is long and well known to the mechanics and inventors of our country. None of them should be without it. It contains valuable papers upon Railroads, Naval Architecture, New Inventions, Medical and general Science, Miscellaneous Itėms, &c. The Editor seems not in all cases to entertain the highest opinion of what is *called* "progress;" and that is all well enough, when we remember that he is one of those engaged in *making* the progress of the day.

NORTON'S LITERARY GAZETTE, and Publisher's Circular; a Monthly Record of Works published in America, England, Germany, and France, &c. Published Monthly by Charles B. Norton, Book Agent, 71 Chambers St., N. Y. A large and handsome sheet of 20 pages. Terms: 1 shilling, single number; $1,00 a year.

This is one of the best things of its kind. As a complete record of new publications in the four great literary nations of the time, and a repertory of judicious criticisms on the leading works of the day, it probably has not its equal. Literary men, booksellers, and readers, can hardly dispense with the Gazette. R.

Monthly Medical Abstract.

Tracheotomy for Epilepsy, &c.—Marshall Hall, M. D., F. R. S., in a lecture delivered at the Royal College of Physicians, and published in the last London Lancet, announces the theory, that the severe cases of epilepsy, apoplexy, puerperal and infantile convulsions are dependent upon "laryngismus," by which is understood a spasm of the glottis, or a collapse of the rima glottidis from paralysis of the brain or laryngeal nerves. Familiar instances of *spasmodic* laryngismus are observed when crumbs of bread or drops of water accidentally fall into the larynx, also in cases of choking. And as an efficient means of treating the more grave cases of epilepsy, apoplexy, and cases of puerperal and infantile convulsions, he recomends the operation of tracheotomy, and is fully satisfied that this heroic measure is highly justifiable as a preventive of future evil. The mode of operating recommended is, to make a free incision through the integuments; then separate the other tissues with a blunt instrument, and expose the trachea. An instrument in the form of a trochar or small trephine, with a circular cutting edge and a curved hook which may be drawn upwards within it, is then applied to the trachea, and as the circular piece is made to revolve, the hook is drawn within it, and a circular portion of this organ is removed. Into this orifice is introduced a little instrument made of silver wire, lighter than any tube, and admitting of being diminished in size for introduction and removal. Very successful cases are reported in confirmation of the theory.

Probing the Fallopian Tubes.—Dr. Samuel A. Cartwright, of New Orleans, still advocates strenuously his views of the practicability of probing the fallopian tubes, for ovarian dropsy, and other morbid conditions of those organs. He defends himself and his previous articles upon this subject, with much zeal and good feeling. A case of ovarian dropsy, in which he accomplished a cure by reaching the fluid through the uterus and fallopian tubes, was reported in the N. O. Medical Journal, in May, 1851.

Quadruple Birth.—A young woman in Cork was lately delivered of two boys and two girls at one birth. The mother is reported well, and the little ones all still "kicking."

Podophyllin in Yellow Fever.—Dr. Massie, writing for the New Orleans Medical & Surgical Journal, recommends both Podophyllin and Tinc. of Aconite for yellow fever. He says, "I am an Eclectist in the broadest sense, believing there is some good in each of the different systems, and it is my duty as well as privilege to investigate and cull therefrom." As to the former treatment of depletion, venesection, &c., he "holds it of *extreme* doubtful utility, *if not absolutely improper*," and is not disposed to scout at the assertion of Dr. A. Smith, a very distinguished and truly scientific gentleman of Galveston, "that experience has sufficiently proved *that no dependence is to be placed in mercurial preparations of any sort.*"

Belladonna for Fissures of the Anus.—Dr. G. Perino, believing that the great obstacle to the cure of fissure of the anus lay in the spasmodic contractions of the sphincter, was led to apply to the circumference of the anus an ointment prepared by mixing one and a half drachms of the extract of belladonna with an ounce of lard.—The success of several cases treated confirmed his confidence in the remedy.

Starch in Skin Diseases.—The celebrated M. Cazenave treats acute eczema, acne, rosacea, impetigo, and herpes, chiefly by starch. Dusts the affected regions night and morning with the following powder: Powdered starch, four ounces; white oxide of zinc, two drachms.—For prurigo of various parts, he adds camphor to this in the proportion of half a drachm to the above quantity. He sometimes uses the starch alone.

Treatment of Fractures.—A new mode of keeping up extension in fractures of the thigh, said to be more comfortable to the patient than any other, is recently recommended by a few surgeons. "This plan consists in the employment of broad strips of adhesive plaster (two and a half or three inches in width,) which are applied to the limb previously shaved, on either side of it, from a little above the knee to below the foot, where they are secured to the ring at the end of the screw by means of a stick and cord, so that the plaster shall not be wrinkled. These two straps conjointly extend around two-thirds or three-fourths of the circumference of the limb, and are then confined by a single roller bandage." To prevent slipping of the plaster,

the extension is not applied until some hours after the application of the latter to the limb.

Stroke of the Sun.—Many cases of *coup de soleil* (stroke of the sun,) have been recently reported in the public prints.

External use of Ipecacuanha.—By M. Levioux. Ipecacuanha applied to the skin produces a special form of eruption. Incorporated with some fatty substance and rubbed on the surface for a few moments, it gives rise to a crop of small elevated pimples, of a bright red color, very numerous and confluent, they soon form true pustules, of small dimensions depressed in the centre, suppurating slightly, drying rapidly, and leaving no scar; the pain attending the eruption is slight. It is prepared as follows: R. Ipecac, 1 part; Olive oil, 1 part; Lard, 2 parts.

New Presidents of State Medical Societies.—Dr. Hiram Corson, of Montgomery Co. has been recently elected President of the Penn., and Dr. Geo. Hayward of Boston, President of the Mass. State Medical Societies. L. C. D.

Miscellany.

Central Medical College.—Winter Session.—A notice of the coming College term will probably appear in our next issue. Meanwhile it may be proper to remark that arrangements are being made which will have the effect of rendering the forth-coming Lecture-Course the most profitable, interesting, and satisfactory that has ever been given in C. M. College. We shall not now particularize all the changes either consummated, or in process of successful completion; but we may state, among other things, that a new set of College rooms has been secured, of superior comfort and convenience, and every way desirable and suitable for the purposes of a medical school. Facilities for demonstration and illustration will be ample in all departments; and, in fact, we have every reason to believe that the next winter will, as heretofore, bring together a goodly company of medical students of both sexes. The time has come for scientific attainments, and professional qualifications that shall be above question or cavil. Such it has been the undeviating purpose and course of the Faculty of C. M. College to encourage and afford. Let those that are pleased with this spirit investigate its claims for themselves.

Transactions of the National E. M. Association.—Although there were those who doubted the practicability of publishing, in book form, the "Transactions" of the last National Association, it is very evident that there will be but one voice respecting the desirableness and propriety of the movement, now that it has been shown to be very possible, and is, in fact, *accomplished*. The "Transactions" are now published—a very beautiful volume, equal in clearness of type, and excellence of general execution, to the best,—printed on very fine paper; and altogether, creditable in the highest degree to the printers, and to the enterprising Publisher, Mr. Darrow, and cal-

culated to inspire the advocates of Eclecticism with just pride, as an evidence of the "*enlargement*" and *advancing position* of the truthful Reform for which they labor. The volume, substantially bound in paper, at 50 cts.,—a few copies in muslin at 75 cts.,—numbers upwards of 170 pages. It contains a full report of the proceedings of the Convention, together with letters, and highly interesting Reports of Committees on various subjects in the Medical Sciences.

But we must leave a more complete notice for our next number. Orders may be sent to the Publisher, or the Editors of the Journal. No Eclectic physician, or well-wisher of the cause, should be without a copy of this volume.

☞ The price of a volume may be conveniently sent in P. O. stamps; or, if one dollar be sent, the balance may be credited on the Journal, or remitted in some concentrated medicine. All orders will be attended to immediately.

Water-Cures.—We are gratified to learn that our friend, Dr. Holland, of the New Græfenberg Establishment, near Utica, is having a goodly number of patients this summer; and, what is better yet, that the latter are, as the Dr's. patients have commonly done, making rapid progress towards health. The Dr's. Cure is every way worthy of support, and will receive it.

Dr. S. O. Gleason, assisted by Mrs. R. B. Gleason, M. D., both well known to the readers of our own, and other Journals of the day, have, as we understand, fairly entered, and successfully opened their new Water-Cure Institution in Elmira, in this State. They will do bed-ridden and hope-beridden invalids much good, and they will no doubt be well patronized. Our readers, would relish a few drops from the fountain, this hot weather!

A new Water-Cure Establishment has been opened in the quiet but flourishing village of Batavia, Genesee Co., N. Y. It is said to be very complete in its "internal arrangements," and to have a good Gymnasium and beautiful pleasure grounds attached. W. H. Mann, is proprietor, and S. H. McCall, M. D., Physician. We wish it all success. We rather opine, or have a sort of inkling, that Batavia is a little *ton*-ish, and so we bespeak for friends Mann and McCall a plenty of the "*bon ton*," who, it is well known, commonly have their pockets lined "*de l'argent!*" R.

Tobacco Chewing Boys.—Here are two or three hints for juvenile tobacco-chewers:

Tobacco has spoiled and utterly ruined thousands of boys, inducing a dangerous precocity, developing the passions, softening and weakening the bones, and greatly injuring the spinal marrow, the brain, and the whole nervous fluid. A boy who early and freely smokes, or otherwise largely uses tobacco, never is known to make a man of much energy of character, and generally lacks physical and muscular, as well as mental energy. To people older, who are not naturally nervous, and particularly the phlegmatic, tobacco may be comparatively harmless, but even to those it is worse than useless. We would par-

ticularly warn boys who want to be anybody in the world, to shun tobacco as they would a deadly poison. [*Exch.*

Boys and young men, be entreated to read over, and reflect on the above statements. The fear is, then, that you will not understand them. There are truths you hardly dream of, cloaked up in those few words. Tobacco *is* a narcotic—a deadly poison. No true logic or chemistry can make anything else of it. And when science unfolds its real effects, do not ask her to be *too modest*. Let her present the naked, undisguised truth. Tobacco "softens and weakens the bones, *and* the spinal marrow, brain, and entire nervous" system: first "developes the passions," and then weakens sense, diminishes intellect, and destroys manly power. Those who early and long steep their brain and nerves in the juice of this pernicious narcotic, should never marry, and need never look forward to the fame of prowess, inventive genius, literary or scholastic attainments. No man is truly temperate, who uses tobacco.

Dr. Cook's Article.—We consider this article in our present number, an excellent one, and a clear vindication of the much-questioned right of *minorities*, and even *individuals*, to disregard the assumptions of majorities, and not only to do their own thinking, but essentially, and in every particular, to prescribe, regulate, and conduct their own course. We believe in an *independence* in medical faith, and in all the concerns of life, to which any outside prescription, proscription, frown or favor, should constitute merely *a source of supreme merriment, and a self-constituted butt for ridicule.*

If we have any fault to find with Dr. Cook's article, it is, for the harshness of the expressions he employs towards our more dignified and less tolerant brethren. Various weapons have been used in the warfare now waging; but, probably, among the least successful may be reckoned harsh epithets, and resentful rebukes. We confess to a little too much of this, ourself, in the past; but we begin to think that if ever a warrior's coat of mail was unloosed, it was not by battering at him from without, but by warming up the human heart of him within.—Still we like Dr. Cook's piece, and would gladly hear from him again.

N. P. Willis is taking treatment at the Mammoth Water-Cure, Harrodsburg, Ky., under the care of our friend Dr. R. S. Houghton. Are we now to expect a counterpart of Bulwer's celebrated "Confessions of a Water Patient?"

A young lunatic recently died with *two and a half pounds* of iron, and such *light* food in his stomach, in the shape of spoon-handles, nails, pebbles, &c.!

"The Nephew of his Uncle" has made it necessary for M. Chomel, the celebrated writer on Pathology, and a physician in Paris, to resign his Professorship in the College of Medicine, because the latter would not subscribe to the "Constitution." We could in our heart wish the young tyrant some *constitutional* malady that should make him succumb to the injured man of science!

Roback, the New York Astrologer, who was making his thousands by medical and other impostures, is arrested for swindling.

A Man in Tennessee was lately completely relieved of a severe turn of Rheumatic pain, in the night, by a free application of *writing ink!* Fact!—but he thought it was *Pain-Killer* he had, till he saw his blackened lines in the morning! R.

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ORIGINAL COMMUNCATIONS.

Cases of Foreign Bodies in the Lungs.

BY L. C. DOLLEY, M. D.

Several instances of foreign bodies in the lungs have come under my notice, which, from some interest and peculiarities about them, I may be permitted to relate briefly.

Case. I.—Was called on the 23d of Nov., 1849, to visit a daughter of Mr. Chamberlain, aged 7 years. About ten months previous to the date of this visit, she accidentally drew into her lungs a portion of the shell of a pumpkin seed. Her health had previously been good. A dry and very troublesome cough followed, evincing a high degree of irritation in the lungs. Expectoration became gradually more abundant, and occasionally very small quantities of blood were raised by coughing. After the lapse of four or five months, the sympathetic fever became considerable, together with the debility and emaciation which marks the progress of consumption. The various measures of treatment resorted to by the physicians who had had charge of her, had scarcely palliated any of the symptoms. I found her unable to walk; night sweats had existed for many weeks; the shoulders were thrown forward, and the thoracic cavity was much contracted. Great dulness upon percussion was observed over the right lung, excepting the space between the clavicle and the third or fourth rib. The posterior portion of the lung, appeared the most completely consolidated. An abscess had pointed and recently opened between the tenth and eleventh ribs, from which passed considerable quantities of pus, and bubbles of air upon coughing.

I may here remark that about one week before I was called to treat the case, Mr. C. related her situation to me, said the physicians had refused to do more for her, and as he had hopes of her surviving but a few days, requested me to be in readiness to make a *post mortem* examination, as I should be sent for for this purpose.

Bandages were immediately applied to her shoulders in such a manner as to act best as braces, and to expand and support the sunken chest. It was directed that the opening in the side be kept from closing up by means of tents, and dressed with little else besides a wet compress. Directed that she be bathed daily with cool water in which was to be thrown a quantity of salt and pulverized mustard seed; and after bathing to be rubbed briskly with a salt cloth.—Small doses of dilute muriatic acid were given in cold sage tea, for the colliquative sweating; and a pulmonary balsam prepared from Boneset, (*Eupatorium Per.*) Spikenard, (*Aralia Racemosa,*) and Bloodroot, was administered very freely, also moderate quantities of iodide of potassium, prepared by adding one drachm of the iodide to four ounces of simple syrup.

She was instructed and urged daily to breathe, at frequent periods, deep and full inspirations; and induced to exercise her arms and chest in a manner calculated to enlarge the capacity of the lungs for air. But little change was made in this course of treatment for several weeks, as under it there was constant improvement. The night sweating, cough and other unpleasant symptoms gradually subsided, and in about three months time she was apparently as well as any child in the town. When I examined her chest last, in the spring of 1850, some dulness was still apparent in the lower part of the right lung; but no cough or other appearance of disease remained.

Case II.—J. B., aged 18, son of Dr. B., my former partner, while eating chestnuts, in December, 1850, was strongly impressed that a portion of shell of one of the nuts had entered his air passages.—With the exception of a cough, few unpleasant symptoms resulted, until a little over four weeks, when he was attacked with severe inflammation of the lungs. This was treated chiefly with hydropathic appliances, though hot baths and fomentations were used chiefly instead of cold.

After the subsidence of the active inflammation, which lasted but a few days, the cough and copious expectoration continued. Much dulness existed over the lower and posterior portion of the right lung. Emaciation and sympathetic fever constantly increased.—Moderate hemorrhage from the lungs occurred from time to time. The matter raised from the lungs, when I examined it, at various times, did not present the appearance of pus.

Daily baths with water, containing salt, mustard and saleratus, were administered, together with occasional sitz baths, and packs.—A candy of the Aralia Racemosa was given much of the time internally, as well as an expectorant mixture of ipecac and licorice, &c.

In July, 1851, in the evening, upon coughing violently, he raised from his lungs a full half of a large chestnut shuck, filled and enveloped with dense mucus. This, of course, to all, was most welcome, and very unexpected to a few, who had always doubted its ex-

istence in the lungs. The same measures of treatment were still pursued; the cough and other unpleasant symptoms slowly subsided; his weight increased, and strength returned; and for the last six months he has been well.

Case III—Mr. V. E., aged 18, of healthy constitution and good habits, began to complain in the winter and spring of 1851, of a cough, and pain in the chest. Slight paroxysms of fever, and constipation, were also observed. In the early part of June, a fistula in anò made its appearance, for which I was for the first time called to treat him. Under the use of hot sitting baths, sesqui-carb. pot., the ligature, etc., this disappeared in about six weeks.

A cough and slight pain in the right side still continued. Cold bathing and friction were used daily, a wet compress was worn over the lungs; and the Syrupus Araliæ Compositus administered freely. An anodyne expectorant, composed of the Tr. Sanguinariæ, Tr. Lobeliæ, Tr. Ictodes, and Paregoric, was given to allay the cough, when most violent. The Irritating Plaster was applied for a time over that portion of the lungs which appeared the most diseased. No permanent impression was made upon his cough, though his strength and general health remained so good, that for a short time he attended the lectures in C. M. College.

In the month of January, to his great surprise, he coughed from his lungs a hard substance, which, upon examination, proved to be two-thirds of the shuck of a beech-nut. The existence of this foreign body in his lungs had not been suspected, even the most remotely, by himself or his friends; and he did not recollect of having eaten beech-nuts since some twelve months previous. After its expulsion his symptoms were thought better, and strong hopes were entertained by his devoted parents and friends, of his rapid convalescence. But in a very short time the appearance of the measles, which he took at the House of Refuge in this city, disappointed them in the hopes they cherished. His system was not in a condition to resist the influence of this disease. During the progress of the measles, and until his death, which took place, I think, in the early part of March, I was unable to see him. He received the judicious care of Dr. B., from whom I have not been able to learn particulars, only that congestion of the lungs and brain appeared to be the immediate cause of death.

Cases like the above are not common, and with those elsewhere recorded, seem to show that when disease of the lungs is purely a local affection, though it may become extensive, hopes may be entertained of recovery under simple measures of treatment, when the exciting causes have been removed. Two cases of the passage of rifle balls through the upper portion of the lungs, and recovery, have come under my notice. That the lungs possess great inherent power of resisting disease when not constitutional, it would seem, is proved by such instances as those related, and the following:

Broussais speaks of a soldier who "died at the expiration of fifteen or twenty years, with a musket ball in his lungs, without any person having suspected it." Thomassin relates that "he found a

ball in the right lung of a man who died at the expiration of three weeks, from wounds disconnected with this last."

Velpeau relates the following: "A convict died of a visceral affection, at the hospital of Rochefort. In this man a *foil* was found, in the chest, which had transfixed it completely, one of the extremities being in the substance of one of the ribs, and the other in the body of a vertebra, while the middle portion, covered with stalactites, was enclosed in the body of the lungs. It was ascertained that the wound had been made *fifteen years before*; and no one suspected that a foreign body of such a character existed in the thorax of the patient."

With these facts, and the many cases recorded in which pins, needles, and even heads of wheat, have made their way through the lungs, and finally shown themselves under the skin, sometimes attended with abscesses, and sometimes not, physicians may extend to such as come under their care with foreign bodies in their lungs, very cheering encouragement.

The following is a summary of the principal conclusions on the subject of foreign bodies in the lungs, with which M. Jobert terminates a series of papers founded on clinical and experimental observation; from *L'Union Medicale:*

1. Foreign bodies tend especially to lodge in the right lung, owing to the direction and dimensions of the bronchus of that side. 2. They penetrate when the *chordæ vocales* are the most widely separated, and a strong column of air rushes into the trachea, as occurs during the rapid inspirations and expirations in the action of laughing. 3. They traverse the superior apertures of the larynx, without raising the epiglottis, which is never closed down upon this, as has been stated. 4. The epiglottis is always raised by virtue of its own elasticity; and its chief office seams to be to direct the passage of certain articles of food, as along a gutter, during deglutition. 5. The bodies traverse the air-passages rapidly, by reason of the laws of gravity, the impulse of the column of air, and their own nature. 6. They are only temporarily arrested at any particular point, and may change their place, until they have excited the inflammatory process, which enables them to hollow out a recptacle, in which they become lodged. 7. A peculiar sound is engendered by their presence; and the bronchial secretion is always increased, and may become sanguinolent. 8. A louder respiratory sound, and a more extended vesicular murmur, are heard on the *opposite* side, than on the side in which the body is placed. 9. Foreign bodies, whose size exceeds four lines in all directions, cannot be expelled by the sole efforts of nature, which are only efficacious in the case of very small ones. 10. In dogs, on the other hand, in whom the glottis is on a level with the upper aperture of the larynx, the expulsion of foreign bodies easily takes place, by reason of the dilatability and dimensions of the aperture. 11. In the dead body, foreign bodies pass the glottis with difficulty, even when aided by the impulse derived from a considerable column of air. 12. In the living body, they have to overcome, not only this passive resistance, but the very active resistance of the

constrictor muscles of the glottis. 13. It is only quite exceptionally that the operation of tracheotomy can be dispensed with; and it should be resorted to as early as possible, in order to prevent inflammation. local changes, and rapid or slow asphyxia. 14. It is a delicate operation, which should be performed by the successive divison of all the tissues, and not by an incision comprising all or the greater part of the soft parts of the region at one. This is the best means of preventing hemorrhage, the introduction of air into the veins, lesion of the thyroid body, &c. 15. The trachea should be as widely opened as possible, so as to faciliate the escape of the foreign body. 16. We can only be certain that the trachea has been opened, when the air escapes with its characteristic sound. 17. When the foreign body does not issue on the opening being made, we must wait awhile, and excite the sensibility of the trachea by the introduction of a blunt body, so as to cause cough and expulsive efforts. 18. The trachea must be more largely opened, when a foreign body of a nature to swell from moisture has been long retained. 19. Reunion may be obtained by the primary or secondary intention. 20. The union by primary intention may be obtained by simple compression, or by the interrupted suture, this only implicating the *dartroid lamella* that surrounds the trachea. 21. Agglutination may be produced by another procedure, which consists in traversing the walls of the trachea entirely, or in part, leaving the sutures hanging externally, these coming away from the fourth to the thirteenth day. 22. A plastic production serves as the means of union between the lips of the wound. 23. Cicatrization only takes place by means of an intermediate production, and the thickness of the walls of the trachea may excite inflammatory action both within and without the canal, and give rise to organized fistulæ and encysted abscesses. 24. The suture which only implicates the covering, or a portion of the thickness of the trachea, only induces a plastic inflammation, and is to be preferred.

Nursing Sore-Mouth,—(Aphthæ.)

BY T. G. HORTON, M. D.

That form of ulcerative inflammation of the mouth peculiar to women while suckling, or in the advanced stage of pregnancy, is exceedingly prevalent in this section, at the present time. It seems to have no preference to locality.

My partner and myself having recently tréated some of the most obstinate cases with entire success, I am induced to submit our treatment, with some of the most prominent symptoms to the consideration of your readers, more particularly as the disease not only proves exceedingly tedious, but fatal, when injudiciously managed.

Symptoms: Loss of taste, with a scalding sensation in the mouth. Minute, hard, painful tumors occur at the beginning, on the side of the tongue, which ulcerate, produce painful sores, with elevated borders, and a circle of inflammation around them. They may also be

found on the inside of the cheeks, with inflammation extending over the whole mouth. The mouth and tongue are red and extremely tender, so that food or drink can scarcely be taken, except that of the blandest character. There is frequently a copious flow of saliva.—In the beginning, the disease is unattended with fever or loss of appetite ; but if not arrested, it extends to the fauces, and œsophagus. The stomach and bowels also become involved ; diarrhea occurs, and the patient becomes extremely debilitated and emaciated, and if appropriate measures are not taken, dies.

Treatment: In the beginning, if there is costiveness, with torpidity of the liver, (which generally is the case,) R. Best Turkey Rhubarb, 2 scruples ; Podophyllin, ½ gr. ; Iridin, 1 gr. : Triturate well with two scruples white sugar ; divide into 8 or 10 gr. powders ; give one every three hours until free catharsis is produced. This powder may be used at any time during the course of the disease, when a cathartic is indicated. After the operation of the cathartic, R. Muriate of Ammonia, two scruples ; Capsicum, one scruple ; Sulphur, one scruple; Gum Arabic, two scruples: Triturate well, divide into 6 gr. powders, and give one every four hours during the day. At the same time give the patient a tablespoonful of Beach's neutralizing cordial three times a day before each meal. The following gargle may be used with decided advantage. R. One pint strong sage tea, and sweeten well with honey; add *aa*, one scruple, Tannic acid, (Tannin,) Charcoal, Borate of Soda, (Borax,) and Alum, all finely pulverized. After pursuing the above treatment for a few days, give the following, alternated with the above every day, or every other day : Ptelein trit. with sugar, 10 gr. to the hundred, one scruple ; Hydrastin, two scruples ; Gum Myrrh, one half drachm ; Leptandrin, one scruple; divide into 6 gr. powders : give one every four hours in a quarter of a tumblerful of cold water. After pursuing the above treatment for a week or so, if your patient does not convalesce, and symptoms of putrefaction, with dryness of the surface, and a tendency to the extension of the inflammation and ulceration of the stomach and bowels, manifest themselves, adopt the following course. Give a spirit sweat every other day, bathing the surface well in cold water, with brisk friction after each sweat ; also give the patient one tablespoonful of lime water every three hours, in two oz. sweet milk, If the disease does not materially yield to the above treatment, or on the other hand, if diarrhea and other very unfavorable symptoms set in, the child, (if the case be that of a nursing woman,) must be taken from the breast, and the spirit sweat, and lime water, together with a powder made by triturating the sulphate of quinine and prussiate of iron, *aa** finely together, and give for a dose 4 grs. ever four hours until six powders are taken. This powder may be repeated every five days until the patient has taken them three times. If there is diarrhea, astringents, &c., (the ordinary treatment for checking diarrhea,) may be resorted to.

The above treatment if repeated and alternated as the judgment of any successful Practitioner will direct, together with a mild, nutri-

* *Equal parts.* Sometimes so used ; but better written in full.—Eds.

tious diet; and some wine bitters, &c., as the patient convalesces, has, as before stated, given the highest satisfaction in our treatment; and no doubt will to any who may see proper to adopt it.

Warren, Ohio, July 14, 1852.

Hirsute Growths.—Again.

Messrs Editors—Since reading in the last No. of your interesting journal an article on "Accidental Hirsute Growths," such an instance of "Dame Nature's" freaks has come under my notice.—Thinking it may not be uninteresting to your readers, I append a short description of the case to which I allude, in the person of a little girl. Her name is Mary A. Heinrick. She is seven years of age, and a native of Belgium. She was brought to this country when a year old, and has since lived with her parents in the village of Batavia, N. Y. She is 3ft. 9in. high, has a broad chest, well developed limbs, and unusually large joints. Her weight is 120lbs, which is less than it was some time ago. This is supposed to be owing to her present mode of life, which is now chiefly within doors; whereas she had formerly been much in the open air.

There is an unusual growth of hair, not only on her limbs, but also on her face. This is stiff and of a sandy color, and the upper lip and the depression under the lower lip, are quite thickly set, giving her moustaches which are said to be equal in luxuriance to those of Kossuth. There is no superfluous hair over her cheek-bones, and it is not abundant on the sides of her face. This strange developement is not congenital, but has grown since she was five years old. She has a coarse, rough voice, but is not masculine in her tastes and disposition. Her expression of countenance is good. Her head is covered with hair of a dark brown color, which is coarse, but not more thickly set than is common with children of her age. The sternal portion of her chest was at one time covered with hair; but this came out after a spell of sickness, and has not since appeared. Her parents had h r shaved a few times, when the unusual growth of hair on her face was first observable; but finding this to be of no service in arresting or preventing the growth, but rather increasing the same, it was not repeated; but they concluded to make her peculiarities a means of pecuniary profit to them, by exhibiting her in some of the large cities, which they are now doing. There is no such peculiarity about her mother, or any of the female members of the family. Her father has a very heavy beard, and thick hair.—What specific or organic influence could have given rise to this departure from the usual distribution of the hair in females, is not easily determined; and such cases may afford subjects for scientific speculation to those who are interested in the study of physiological law.

August 1st, 1852.

SELECTIONS.

Extracts from Prof. Mussey's Introductory Lecture.

Adverting to the vaunted elixirs, the barbarous operations, and disgusting compounds in high repute but a few centuries ago, Prof. M. gives us, from the work of the great Ambrose Pare, a very extraordinary composition which that Surgeon recommends in the highest terms in the treatment of wounds, &c.

"After the use of Egyptiacum, you shall, with emollient or lenitive medicines, procure the falling away of the eschar, and such a medicine is this following oyl, being somewhat more than warm.

Take oyl, in which violets have been steeped, *four pounds;* put into this two newly born puppies, and cook them even to the dissolution of the bones, and then add *a pound* of earth worms fitly prepared, simmer them together over a gentle fire, and after straining them, add *three ounces* of Venice turpentine, and an *ounce* of brandy. This oyl hath a wonderful force to assuage pain, to bring the wound to suppuration, and cause the falling away of the eschar. Put, of this, a sufficient quantity into the wound; for this being applied indifferent hot, hath power to assuage pain, to soften and humect the orifice of the wound, and help forward suppuration, which is the true manner of curing these kinds of wounds, according to the rule of Hippocrates, which wishes every contused wound to be presently brought to suppuration, for so it will be less subject to a phlegmon; and, besides, all the rent and bruised flesh must putrifie, dissolve, and turn to quitture, that new and good flesh may be generated instead thereof.

This account of the dressings employed in the time of Pare, exhibits a striking contrast with the simpler and safer measures practiced at the present day. That so disgusting a composition, as the last described 'oyl,' should have been tolerated within the limits of the regular profession, sufficiently marks the obscurity which rested upon the minds of distinguished men in relation to physiology and disease. Ambrose Pare was a great man and an eminent surgeon, and, by the translation of his writings into English, exerted an influence beyond the limits of his own country. So highly did the French king, Charles IX, value his talents, that, on the night of the festival of St. Bartholemew, when the massacre of *seventy thousand* Protestants began under his secret order, he shut up Pare in his own closet, and thus saved him from the general slaughter."

Respecting the improvements made by modern Surgery, Dr. Mussey remarks:

"The labors of John Hunter form an epoch in surgery: and since his time, inventions and improvements have increased, so that not a year now passes, without valuable additions to the stock of surgical knowledge. The inductive philosophy has become the pole-star of

pursuit; and under its auspices our science has had a movement, never at intervals retarded, but in a ratio, from period to period, uniformly accelerated.

The Medico-Chirurgical Society of London was instituted in 1805. Its influence in promoting discovery, by raising the dignity of the profession, has been felt, not only through Britain, but in every country where regular scientific medicine has been taught.

The whole subject of inflammation was more fully explored and better understood by Hunter, than by any of his predecessors.

Important improvements have been made in the treatment of simple inflammations, by a judicious employment of constitutional and local depletion, and especially by water dressings in some form, either by irrigation or the water compress. In different cases, water is applied at various temperatures, to accommodate the state of the sensibility in the part affected.

In the healing of *simple wounds*, water dressings may often be so managed as to effect an entire union of the divided parts without suppuration, and this, too, where the divided parts are not kept in contact, as is necessary for the adhesive process, the space being filled up by the requisite vital materials without suppuration. This has been called the modeling process, by Dr. Macartney.

In gunshot wounds, the treatment has been improved by introducing water dressings, and still further by the wet bandage of Dudley.—These injuries, when in the limbs and confined to the soft parts, have been repeatedly cured without suppuration.

Certain poisoned wounds: the bite of the rattlesnake; it has been alleged on pretty good authority, has been cured by the early local application of tincture of iodine.

Tetanus (traumatic): a number of well authenticated cases have been successfully treated by chloroform.

In 1845, the subclavian artery had been ligated *sixty-nine times:* of this number there were thirty-six recoveries and thirty-three deaths.

Dupuytren and Liston, each has tied successfully the subclavian artery, under cover of the anterior scalenus muscle.

The aorta has been ligated *four* times, the arteria innominata *nine* times, and the subclavian, on the tracheal side of the scaleni muscles, *five* times. Death followed in every case, leaving surgeons little room to hope for any better result from a repetition of either of these operations.

Tenotomy and Myotomy. Great progress has been made in the relief of deformities, as of club-foot, wry neck, strabismus, permanently contracted fingers.

In chronic enlargement of the tonsils, excision is now employed instead of ligation, which was used forty years ago.

Cancer of the tongue: nearly half of that organ has been successfully removed.

Excision of the upper and lower jaw: the latter operation has been performed by disarticulating the bone without dividing the facial nerve, or the duct of Steno, thus preserving the symmetry of the face.

In chronic abscess of bone, limbs are now saved by perforating the wall of the bone, which were formerly doomed to amputation.

In fractures of the limbs, the wet bandage of Dudley, in addition to splints, should not be overlooked, as marking improvement in the treatment.

In compound fractures, the collodion is of great value in excluding the air from the wound. In un-united fracture, or false joint, sawing the ends of the bones, subcutaneous scarification, lateral or longitudinal compression of the fragments, ivory pegs and wire bridles, and more especially a suitable constitutional treatment, have, in their turn, promoted cure.

In dislocations, anæsthetic agents will probably take the place of copious bleedings, nauseating doses and the extreme warm bath.

In amputations, the flap operation, as well as amputations at the hip, shoulder and ankle joints, show a progress in this department of surgery.

Diseases of the joint are better understood than formerly, and the treatment is more successful. Excision of the diseased elbow joint has been repeatedly successful.

Iodine injections in hydrarthus, in enlarged bursæ mucosæ, in ganglions, in spina bifida and chronic hydrocephalus, have been practiced with important benefit.

Injuries and diseases of the brain and spinal cord are much better understood.

Great improvement in the treatment of fistulous communications between mucous canals and cavities, as well as strictures of mucous canals, varicocele, and spermatorrhœa.

The removal of vesical calculus by lithotripsy, and especially by the operation of bilateral lithotomy, is regarded as marking a progress in this department of surgery. This last operation is probably destined to take the place of all others in lithotomy.

Ovarian tumors treated by operations with important success; on the whole, more than two hundred and twenty cases, in all, are on record—most of them within the last half century. Excision of intra-uterine fibrous tumors, *per vias naturales:* four cases out of five successful, by our countryman, Prof. Washington L. Atlee.

Anatomy lies at the foundation of all that is safe and valuable in operative surgery.

I once saw a gentleman dissect out a small tumor that lay over the ramus of the lower jaw. He was not aware of the position of the facial nerve. After the tumor was removed, a segment of that nerve, half an inch in length, lay loosely attached to the back part of it.—This nerve might as well as not have remained untouched, and its important function to the muscles of expression, upon one half of the face, preserved. The patient was a handsome young lady—but the symmetry of the face was marred, the mouth distorted, and the beauty gone. So much for bad surgery.

The same surgeon on another occasion, undertook to remove an enlarged thyroid gland. The patient, a girl of thirteen or fourteen years, whose general health was not at all impaired by the chronic local enlargement, was assured by the doctor that he could give her as small and smooth a neck as other young ladies had. She submitted to the operation. The bleeding was so profuse that the surgeon

desisted before the tumour was half dissected out, and death followed in a few hours. He seemed not to know that the thyroid arteries, especially the inferior, are very difficult of access for the ligature.

An acquaintance with physiology is of great importance in surgery, both to aid in the decision of the question of a contemplated operation, and to guide in the prognosis.

We have known an operator who dissected out a tumor from the abdomen, mistook it for the liver, and reported the next day that the liver was out, and the patient doing well. It would require but a superficial knowledge of the circulation of the blood to prevent such a mistake as this. How could a patient be expected to live half an hour without vessels to carry back to the heart the great mass of blood thrown out by the cœliac and mesenteric arteries?"

The author makes some extremely judicious remarks upon the importance of sound general health, appropriate diet, pure air, and a cheerful frame of mind, when a grave surgical operation is about to be performed, giving several examples in illustration, and we regret we have not space to introduce them here.

The following anecdote and concluding portion of the lecture, illustrating the blunders and charlatanry of Medical men, will not fail to amuse and instruct:

"In another curious surgical case, I was applied to by a lady on behalf of her little daughter, three or four years old, whom she brought to me with her leg splintered up for a fracture. This, too, had been treated by Dr. ———, with the minim doses and splints. As the splints had been on four weeks, and the lady was desirous to go a journey and take the little girl with her, she wished to know whether I thought it would be safe to leave the splints off from that time?—After examining the case, I assured the mother that it would be quite safe to do so, inasmuch as the leg had not been broken. She followed the advice.

The diagnosis of surgical diseases, too, is far in advance of what it was fifty years ago. Sometimes ludicrous and sometimes serious mistakes in diagnosis have been made, either from want of proper attention to a case, or of the knowledge requisite to its thorough investigation.

A few years since I was consulted in a case of abdominal tumor, which a professional gentleman had mistaken for abscess of the liver. In conformity with this view he thrust an abscess lancet into it, but no pus followed. It proved to be a gravid organ, the contents of which were not made to pass through so small an aperture.

Fully within my recollection the belief prevailed, not only among the common people, but with physicians, that, when a blow had been received upon the head, so as to wound the scalp, or to cause a temporary stupor, a surgical operation was called for. The following illustration is in point. In the interior of one of the New England States, a young man received a small cut in the scalp by a kick from a horse. As there was no man at home in the small neighborhood who could go for a doctor, the patient tied a handkerchief about his head, mounted a horse, and rode off two or three miles himself to find one. In due time he came cantering back with his surgeon, who

laid him down and trepanned him. The fortunate patient escaped with his life from the dangers of the operation so gratuitously practiced upon him.

The cases requiring an operation are now so well understood, that few men, with even an ordinary medical education, are to be found, who are liable to commit the mistake of operating on the head, without being able to assign an intelligent professional reason for it.

It is but about twenty years since the death, at an advanced age, of a man in one of our eastern States, who, at one period of his professional life, had a great reputation as a surgeon, in the part of the country where he lived. This was acquired chiefly by the very free use of his amputating and trepanning instruments. It was not uncommon within his circuit, to see a man hobbling upon a pair of crutches and one leg. For the slightest contusions of the scalp, he would apply the trephine. On that occasion he gathered around him some neighboring physicians, and ascertained that the spasms of the patient were owing to *a drop of blood* lying just under the skull. On removing a disc of bone, he found the drop of blood, and came off in triumph. The patient recovered from the operation. He had scarcely any knowledge of anatomy or physiology, and less, if possible, of surgical pathology. He was very fond of stringing together high sounding words (a sure mark of ignorance or pedantry,) with little meaning, or without meaning altogether. In one case he advised a patient, a man of education, to take, for a pain of his head, some "*unquentum flos, henos stratibus unquentorum dictis*" !! "What, doctor—what do you prescribe? There is no sense in that!" The doctor replied: "*Medical terms, Mr. E., medical terms, sir.*"

But the schools, to a great extent, have corrected these fooleries, even in the most secluded spots in our country.

A curious case occurred in one of the eastern States, soon after a medical school was established there, before its influence had done much to enlighten the public, or even the teachers themselves.

A farmer in that region was advised to take an idiot son to the institution for a surgical operation, with a view to give him the common share of intelligence. He did so. The professors held a consultation upon the propriety of trepanning him. As they did not perfectly agree, it was concluded to refer the point in question to the medical class: so the professors and students went into a committee of the whole. It was argued, that "If the operation could not bring intelligence into the fool's brain, they did not know what would;" and a decision was presently had on republican principles, a large majority voting for the operation. Accordingly, the poor boy was put upon the table and trepanned. He recovered from the operation! A shrewd physician in a neighboring State, on hearing of it, remarked, "that they ought, then, to have gone to work trepanning one another."—*Ohio Med. & Surg. Journal.*

Special Treatment of Phthisis Pulmonalis. (Consumption.)

BY PROF. J. H. BENNETT, M. D., EDINBURGH.

Under the head of general treatment of phthisis pulmonalis, I have pointed out the means of meeting the three indications which should never be lost sight of in this disease. But every case requires a special treatment in addition, which will depend on the unusual severity of this or that symptom, or the existence of peculiar complications. It is to the undue importance given to this special, as distinguished from the general treatment, that I attribute much of that want of success experienced by practitioners. Thus it is by no means uncommon to meet with patients who are taking at the same time a mixture containing squills and ipecacuanha to relieve the cough; an anodyne draught to cause sleep and diminish irritability; a mixture containing catechu, gallic acid, tannin or other astringents, to check diarrhœa; acetate of lead and opium pills to diminish hæmoptysis; sulphuric acid drops to relieve the sweating; and cod-liver oil in addition. I have seen many persons taking all these medicines and several others at one time, with a mass of bottles and boxes at the bed-side sufficient to furnish an apothecary's shop, without its ever suggesting itself apparently to the practitioner, that the stomach drenched with so many nauseating things is thereby prevented from performing its healthy functions. In many cases there can be little doubt that this treatment of symptoms, with a view to their palliation, whilst it destroys all hope of cure, ultimately fails to relieve even the particular functional derangement to which it is directed. Still these symptoms require attention; but their causes, and the means required for their relief, will be best understood by speaking of each in succession.

Loss of Appetite and Anorexia.—These are the most constant and important symptoms of phthisis, inasmuch as they interfere more than any other with the nutritive processes. If food, or its substitute, cod-liver oil, cannot be taken and digested, it is vain to hope for amelioration in any of the essential symptoms of the disease. Here I must guard you from making a mistake, into which the inexperienced are very liable to fall. Nothing is more common than for phthisical patients to tell their medical attendants that their appetite is good, and that they eat plentifully, when more careful inquiry proves that the consumption of food is altogether inadequate, and that they loathe all kinds of animal diet. You should never be satisfied with general statements, but determine the kind and amount of food taken, when you will be at no loss to discover, in the vast majority of cases, sufficient proof of the derangement of the appetite and digestive powers formerly alluded to. Very commonly, also, you will discover acid and other unpleasant tastes in the mouth. In all such cases, especially if too much medicine has been already given, you should allow the stomach to repose itself before giving anything, even cod-liver oil. Sweet milk with toasted bread, and small portions of meat nicely cooked, so as to tempt the capricious appetite, should be tried. Then ten drops of the sp. ammon. aromat., given

every four hours in a wine-glassfull of some bitter infusion, such as that of columbo or gentian; with a little tr. aurantii, tr. cardamomi, or other carminative. In this way the stomach often regains its tone, food is taken better, and then you may try cod-liver oil, first in tea-spoonful doses, cautiously increased. Should this plan succeed, you will be almost sure to observe amelioration in the symptoms.

Nausea and Vomiting.—Not unfrequently the stomach is still more deranged; there is a feeling of nausea and even vomiting on taking food. In the later stages of phthisis, vomiting is also some times occasioned by violence of the cough, and the propagation of reflex actions, by means of the par vagum, to the stomach. In the former case, the sickness is to be alleviated by carefully avoiding all those substances which are likely to occasion a nauseating effect, not overloading the stomach, and allowing it to have repose. I have found the following mixture very effectual in checking the vomiting in phthisis. R. Naphthæ medicinalis, dr.j.; tr. cardamomi comp., oz.j.; mist. camphoræ, oz.vij. M. fit. mist. Of which a tablespoonful may be taken every four hours. When it depends on the cough, those remedies advised for that symptom should be given.

Diarrhœa.—This is a very common symptom throughout the whole progress of phthisis, at first depending on the excess of acidity in the alimentary canal, to which we have alluded, but in advanced cases connected with tubercular deposition and ulceration in the intestinal glands. The best method of checking this troublesome symptom is by improving the quality and amount of the food. The moment the digestive processes are renovated, this, with the other functional derangements of the alimentary canal, will disappear. Hence, at an early period we should avoid large doses of opium, gallic acid, tannin, and other powerful astringents, and depend upon the mildest remedies of this class, such as chalk with aromatic confection, or an antacid, such as a few grains of carbonate of potash. When, on the other hand, in advanced phthisis, continued diarrhœa appears, and is obstinate under such treatment, then it may be presumed that tubercular disease of the intestine is present, and the stronger astringents may be given as palliatives.

Cough and Expectoration.—At first the cough in phthisis is dry and hacking. When tubercle softens or bronchitis is present, it becomes moist and more prolonged. When excavations exist, it is hollow and reverberating. In every case cough is a spasmodic action, occasioned by exciting the branches of the pneumogastric nerves, and causing simultaneous reflex movements in the bronchial tubes and muscles of the chest. The expectoration following dry cough is at first scanty and muco-purulent, afterwards copious and purulent. When it assumes the nummular form—that is, occurs in viscid, rounded masses, swimming in scanty clear mucus, it is generally brought up from pulmonary excavations. The accumulation of the sputum in the bronchial tubes is an excitor of cough; and hence the latter symptom is often best combated by those means which diminish the amount of sputum. When, on the other hand, the cough is dry, those remedies should be used which diminish the sensibility of the nerves. In the first case, the amount of mucus and pus formed will materially

depend on the weakness of the body and the onward progress of the tubercle. Hence good nourishment and attending to the digestive functions is the best method of checking both the cough and expectoration; whereas giving nauseating mixtures of ipecacuanha and squills is perhaps the worst treatment that can be employed. There is no point which experience has rendered me more certain of, than that, however you may palliate these symptoms by cough and anodyne remedies, you thereby render the stomach intolerant of food, and so impede the curative tendency of the disease. On the other hand, nothing is more remarkable than the spontaneous cessation of the cough and expectoration on the restoration of the digestive functions and improvement in nutrition. When the cough is dry, as may occur in the first stage, with crude tubercle, and in the last stage with dry cavities, counter-irritation is the best remedy, employed in various forms. Opium may palliate, but never cures.

Hæmoptysis.—This symptom sometimes appears suddenly in individuals in whom there has been no previous suspicion of phthisis, and in whom, on careful examination no physical signs of the disease can be detected. On other occasions, the sputum may be more or less streaked with blood; and lastly, it may occur in the advanced stage of the disease, apparently from ulceration of a tolerably large vessel. In all these cases the best remedy is perfect quietude, and avoidance of every kind of excitement, bodily and mental. Astringents have been recommended, especially acetate of lead and opium; but how these remedies can operate, I am at a loss to understand; and I have never seen a case in which their administration was unequivocally useful. I have now met with several cases where supposed pulmonary hemorrhage really originated in follicular disease of the pharynx, or larynx, and which, with the supposed phthisical symptoms, were removed by the use of the probang and nitrate of silver solution.

Sweating I regard as a symptom of weakness, and therefore as a common, though by no means a special, one in phthisis. Here, again, the truly curative treatment will consist in renovating the nutritive processes, and adding strength to the economy. It will always be observed, that if cod-liver oil and good diet produce their beneficial effect, then the sweating, together with the cough and expectoration, ceases. On the other hand, giving acid drops to relieve this symptom, as is the common practice, by adding to the already acid state of the alimentary canal, is directly opposed to the digestion of the fatty principles which require assimilation.—*Edinburgh Med. Jour.*

It is asserted by a writer in a Cincinnati paper, that he has discovered from a careful and attentive observation of the ravages of cholera, that it has never become epidemic in a district where rain water is exclusively used. The writer says: We hear of no deaths by cholera in families in our vicinity where rain water is used exclusively; nor in Charleston, Natchez, or Vercey, in Indiana, or certain islands in the West Indies, where they have no other than rain water; and it will be found, on examination, that the different out-breaks of cholera, which we hear of lately, all occur where calcareous water is used. [*Exchange.*

Treatment of Poisoning by Laudanum.

I. *Case of Poisoning by Laudanum in Infancy, successfully treated by keeping up artificial respiration by means of the Galvanic Battery.*—BY WILLIAM BIRD HERAPATH, M. D.

MRS. B——was confined by me, on Jan, 26, 1852, with the subject of the present case; therefore the age is correctly stated at thirty-nine days.

March 5, 1852.—This infant having a slight cough, his mother administered to him a small teaspoonful of what she considered at the time to be a cough medicine; but almost immediately afterwards she discovered that the bottle contained laudanum, and that she had therefore commited a serious error. This occurred shortly before one P. M. A very small portion of laudanum was spilt, the child swallowing the remainder. When I saw it at 5 P. M., the infant was almost *in articulo mortis*, cold, pulseless, and the skin of the face and extremities blue; dyspnœa excessive; respiration taking place only by irregular, convulsive catches; pupils contracted to a mere point; the eyes rotated upwards under the brows; the child lay still and motionless, and, but for the occasional respiratory gasp, to all appearance dead.

As all the laudanum had been retained, and four hours had elapsed since its administration, I did not, from the appearence of the little patient, anticipate anything but a speedy death; but in order that the best chance might be given to it, strong mustard cataplasms were immediately applied along the spine, and an infusion of coffee administered, containing a little compound spirit of ammonia. This could only be given by a teaspoonful at a time; and even then it was swallowed with considerable difficulty. Whilst these remedies were being prepared, the nurse was directed to keep the child in constant agitation, and to rouse it as much as possible. After a time, some little evidence of returning animation appeared: it occasionally moved a limb, and attempted to open its eyes; the respiration was a little less embarrassed; and he became more able to swallow the coffee. This was steadily given until between one and two ounces were administered. The mustard plaster by this time began to take effect; and so much counter irritation was produced, that I decided upon its removal for a time, lest vesication should be produced, which would wholly prevent the application of another. The child now become somewhat uneasy, and its respirations were performed with more facility and regularity in consequence; but of course little consciousness showed itself. At six P. M., the case was relapsing again into its former condition. Another sinapism was applied to the chest and abdomen. Of course the child was not allowed to remain still during a single moment.

As it was clear that all the poison must have already passed into the circulation, it was useless to give an emetic: if administered, it would have probably failed; and if it had succeeded, it would only have caused the ejection of the antidotes—namely, the coffee and

ammonia; and as it was evident that the treatment of the case would last many hours, if successful, but would fail if at all slackened for an instant, I determined upon bringing electricity to our aid. Whilst arranging the battery, my pupils were directed to administer electric shocks from a small Leyden jar, along the neck to the diaphragm; but the child did not appear to respond to this stimulus in the slightest degree. Having now got Horne, Thornthwaite, and Wood's little maintaining and multiplying battery ready, I began, at half-past six P. M., to pass a constant stream of electricity through the little patient.

After numerous trials, it was found that, by placing the zinc or positive wire on the mucous membrane of the mouth, and the negative or copper wire just below the ensiform process, the respiratory movements were carried on with considerably more regularity and ease, than by any other method. It was evident that the stream of electricity, entering by the fifth nerve, was conducted by it to that portion of the spinal marrow (the medulla oblongata) which presides over the function of respiration, and which, being stimulated to action, its influence was sent through the phrenic and external respiratory and spinal nerves to the diaphragm, the intercostal and other accessory muscles of the respiratory process.

The fifth nerve is known to be a natural afferent or excitor nerve of the respiratory movements. We only, therefore, called its physiological action into play, and it cheerfully obeyed the call. Respiration proceeded steadily and regularly as long as the stream continued to be applied in this manner; but if the zinc or postive wire slipped from the cheek to the tongue, the movement became more gasping and convulsive; spasm of the glottis appeared to ensue, and if it had been persevered in, possibly asphyxia would have resulted; as another nervous arc was probably then employed, the gustatory branch of the fifth appearing to act as an excitor (through the medulla oblogata) of the superior laryngeal, thus closing the glottis, and probably inducing an act of deglutition at the same time.

The stream of electricity was maintained, with only an occasional intermission, during several hours. As long as the battery kept in action, all went well, the child breathed steadily, regularly, and almost as if nothing was the matter. At times the stream would get weaker, in consequence of more acid being required, or from the vibrating spring for making and breaking the contact getting out of order; at these times the little patient would experience a serious relapse. At eleven P. M. it had a very narrow escape; the only sign of life left was derived from auscultation; the heart was still found to beat, "tap tap," about thirty times in a minute, faintly and just audibly. The battery at this nick of time was restored to action, and the aspect of the case again improved. From this period until two A. M., it was constantly maintained in action. At this period the electricity was slightly discontinued, as consciousness began to manifest itself; the little resuscitated patient appeared restless, uneasy, and in pain from the repeated sinapisms; even attempted a feeble cry. In about ten minutes there were symptoms threatening relapse. The battery

was again used for a few minutes, and a stimulating enema of one drachm of spirits of turpentine, six drachms of castor-oil, in about four ounces of strong infusion of coffee, was used, whilst some coffee, with a little brandy, was administered by the mouth. This was swallowed with difficulty; some of it got into the larynx, and produced a fit of dyspnœa, but there was not sufficient nervous energy to induce a cough. Half-past three A.M.: He was so much recovered that he no longer required the stimulus of the battery; he had continued to breathe with tolerable ease during the last half-hour without its assistance. I left it at four A. M. in charge of my pupil, Mr. Phelps, who watched it carefully until I came down, at eight A. M. During the whole of this time the battery had been employed three times for short periods only; the last application was at seven A. M. during ten minutes. I found it breathing naturally and with tolerable regularity; it would occasionally seem to catch in its breathing, as if a slight spasm of the glottis occured; but by blowing in its face or shaking it, the inspiratory act would be induced, and all would again go on smoothly for some time, when a repetition of the spasm would call for similar treatment.

At one P. M. March 6th, it was sufficiently recovered to be left in the charge of its anxious parents, and to be removed from my house, where it had been all night. It was, however, still highly comatose, with the respiration occasionally stertorous. The bowels had not acted; some little of the enema had returned at the time of its administration, otherwise the greater part had been retained. At four P. M. I visited it; all was going on well; the child appeared to be slowly rallying from its stupor; it could not yet take the breast, but it swallowed small quantities of milk-and-water given by the spoon with more ease; respiration was going on better; the spasms continued to recur, though at longer intervals, and to become slighter in their intensity. The skin began to assume a more natural, healthy tint; it had lost the deadly, sallow hue it formerly had. The temperature of the surface was more natural; there was not that necessity for artificial heat which existed previously; it could now dispense with the fire and blanket, and was lying in its cot; the sleep was deep, but the breathing had lost its stertor. Eight P. M.: The little patient continued to do well, but had not yet been able to take to the breast; I advised them to watch it well during the night; in fact, to remain up with it.

7th.—One P. M.: Everything progressing very favorably; the child had awakened from its lethargy; it had taken the breast and cried lustily during the night. All danger therefore appeared gone. A dose of castor-oil was ordered, and I prescribed a slight antimonial mixture for the cough which appeared to trouble it.

8th.—Improving in all respects; ceased attendance.

Remarks.—The treatment of this case is most satisfactory; it shows in an eminent degree that perseverance aided by science will accomplish wonders. An infant of tender age, only thirty-nine days old, has nearly three grains of fluid opium administered to it—a de-

cidedly fatal dose : the whole is retained and absorbed, as four hours elapse before the slightest effort is made in its behalf. It is true the nurse had wisely endeavored to keep it awake all the time by continued agitation, but these efforts failing, it was sent to my surgery; fortunately I arrived about ten minutes afterwards, or in a few moments all would have been over. I never undertook a case with less hope to stimulate me, and soundly reprimanded the most interested parties for the unwarrantable delay which had been allowed to occur before rendering any efficient assistance to a case of such imminent danger. Slight improvement resulted from the ordinary mode of treatment; our hope was derived from this amendment. The battery was the sheet-anchor; the other means only paved the way for its use, and gave us hope that perseverance would surmount the difficulty. Unfortunately, from its having been out of order, and no opportunity occurring to repair it, except in a temporary manner, it could not render that assistance it ought to have done, and a condition of asphyxia results, so nearly approaching to death, that the heart alone, of all the living wheels, continues to act, and even this goes but poorly—30 times in a minute instead of 120. How near the grave! Yet the "sacred fire" is applied—the life-giving stream circulates with lightning rapidity through the whole spinal system, and the patient sucks in the breath of life—mechanically, it is true, but as if endowed with sense of consciousness; slowly, but surely, the function of respiration becomes re-established ; the vital air not only gives new vigor to the feeble frame, but it burns away the waters of Lethe, and enables the nervous system to throw off that incubus which oppresses it to death. During eight long, tedious hours was the stream constantly employed ; not a moment could be suffered to elapse without the attention being directed both to the apparatus and to the patient, or the result of all the previous care were lost, and the case endangered. But at length came the reward for all our toil : the patient could do without our aid; it could by its own energy inspire the breath of life—the universal spirit of ancient days, being, as it is, both the creating and destroying agent of mundane organization.—*London Lancet.*

II. *Poisonous Effects of Laudanum*—BY WM. P. JONES, M. D., OF NASHVILLE, TENN.

About 10 o'clock on the night of the 27th of August, 1851, I was called to see a patient 45 years of age, bilious temperament, six feet high; full habit and in fine health; who in a state of intoxication had an hour before taken four ounces of officinal laudanum. I found his pulse full, quick and bounding; his face flushed, eyes red and swollen, was but little inclined to sleep, and evidently laboring under much mental excitement, which in some degree at least, was attributed to the cries and general distress of his family.

Immediately upon my arrival I attempted to administer an active emetic, which, however, in a very determined manner he resisted.—After reasoning and persuasion had both proven unavailing, and when several of his friends had come in, I determined to take him and ad-

minister by force, the necessary medicine; whereupon he became exceedingly furious, and when his family heard his demonstrations of resistance, they begged me to refrain from any further attempt of the kind, expressing the hope that they could yet induce him to consent without resorting to the coercive measures which I now proposed.—Having in this peculiar case, more regard for the feelings of the family than the life of the patient, I probably violated professional duty in complying with their request. Having procured a strong decoction of tobacco-leaves and directed its cautious, though if possible copious application* to his stomach and bowels, and succeeding in giving him 3 ozs. wine of ipecac, I left the room for a few minutes.—During my absence, his mental excitement in some degree subsided, and drowsiness rapidly supervened, until he was aroused by an effort at emesis. He threw up but little, and that tinged with and smelling strongly of laudanum. Immediately after this effort, he fell back in bed and in a moment was in the profoundest stupor, from which neither the frantic shrieks of his family or the thunders of heaven could arouse him.

His breathing suddenly became loud, slow and irregular, his pulse though somewhat less frequent than before, had still great volume and almost irresistible force. I now, at 11 o'clock, sent every member of the family from his room, drew him from the bed, stripped and placed him upon the floor, and for an hour had constant recourse to the cold dash, during which time respiration was becoming more and more laborious and even difficult. Pulse irregular and now slightly reduced in volume and frequency. In the meantime, Dr. J. W. King, who had been sent for, came in, and upon consultation, we continued the dash, and resorted to the stomach pump. The pump being out of order, we had but little difficulty in adopting a very efficient substitute† with which we thoroughly washed his stomach, bringing away a large quantity of laudanum; still, however, no consciousness supervened. Dr. Buchanan was sent for—examined the respiration, circulation, &c.,approved the treatment, made no suggestion, but thought the patient would die in despite of our exertions. By this time(12 o'clock) the muscles of the back. arms and legs had become rigid—so rigid were those along the spinal column that his head, which when he was in the sitting posture had previously fallen upon the chest, or from side to side, now maintained an erect position, and against the force of gravitation the rigidity of the muscles would still retain it.—If the legs remained flexed for but a few minutes, they were with difficulty extended, and if extended, not easily flexed. Regarding it indispensably necessary, we endeavored to keep him constantly in motion; still, his pulse and respiration grew rapidly worse, until by leav-

*Might not a more suitable emetic than tobacco have been found for a case of this nature? Is it not probable that portions of the drug aided in producing the severe narcotism which followed? E.

†And just here allow me to say for the convenience of country practitioners, who may not at all times find it convenient to have a stomach-pump, that we on this occasion introduced a gum-elastic tube and attached it to a 2 pint syringe. This, by the way, constitutes the most simple, available, and convenient pumping apparatus we have for the stomach.

W. F. L.

ing him quiet but a few moments in the reclining posture, respiration would cease entirely. After administering several copious enemas of cold water, we, at 1 o'clock, suspended the cold dash, wiped him off, threw into the stomach a glass of iced brandy toddy, removed him to another room, placed his feet in warm water, dressed him in flannel under-clothes, and commenced artificial respiration. This, however, we had in some measure adopted an hour previous to this time, by taking hold of each of his hands and violently exerting the respiratory muscles. This mode of respiration having now proven insufficient we were compelled in order to sustain life, to keep up the action of the lungs, by the application of sufficient force with both hands immediately over the diaphragm.

By thus laboring (from one to three minutes or more) and creating a vacuum, respiration would be transiently established, though rarely perpetuated for a longer period than was necessary to reproduce it. After the first natural involuntary inspiration, or, in other words, immediately succeeding the first independent inspiration, the *pulse* which by the mechanical effort was made full and strong, would begin to abate both in force and frequency, soon became imperceptible at the wrist; but so soon as the air was pumped into the lungs, the pulse would rise higher and higher still, in proportion to the time the bellows force was exerted over the region of the chest. And thus the patient remained, a mere stertorous machine in the hands of four or five athletic men, for 12 hours; for several hours of which time, to have neglected him 30 minutes would have sealed his destiny.

At 3 o'clock on the morning of the 28th, coma was most complete; though at no time from 11 o'clock the night before had there been the least manifestation of perception or wakefulness. The snoring which followed the mechanical respiration, had been horribly loud all night, but now it amounted to snorting. Rigidity of the muscles was more general, pulse exceedingly small and irregular, whole external surface and particularly extremities, cold; hands, eyes, lips, cheeks and in fact the entire body was livid. Notwithstanding this combination of deathly indications, I persevered in *alternate contractions* of the chest, as the *only* possible means of his restoration.

At 8 o'clock, A. M., Gave the patient, through the stomach-pump, probably a pint of ice water and brandy. Soon after this, Dr. Winston came in, examined his general condition, concurred as to the propriety of treatment, but thought that it would all prove unavailing—that he would die in an hour. But life, which so frequently lingered at the lips, was as often invited back; and the pulse which so repeatedly faltered, resumed its action at our bidding.

12 o'clock came, and no return of sensibility or consciousness to the patient.

1 o'clock P. M. Artificial respiration was still kept up in the same way and with like results. Presently, however, he was heard to groan; in a few minutes thereafter his eyes, hitherto fixed, were seen to move beneath the lids. Again he sighed, and more deeply than before.—Natural respiration was gradually resumed. Circulation became more diffusive; warmth returned to the extremities, and by 2 o'clock,

P. M., he tried to speak, and finally remarked, he had just about two hours ago taken four ounces of laudanum, that he was getting sleepy, and wanted to be let alone.

He recovered more speedily than could reasonably have been expected. For many days he was of course very sore, indeed he could scarcely bear to be moved. His throat from the rigidity of muscles and frequent introduction of the gum-elastic tube, was so much inflamed that he could swallow nothing else than warm fluids. His bowels remained constipated for several days. Three drops of Croton (or to use his own expression, Telegraph) oil, relieved him of this, and in a week he was able to walk about the room.

I will ask the Society the following

QUESTION:

As in this, and other instances, artificial respiration has resulted so favorably, may we not hope for better success than has hitherto attended our practice, in this class of poisons? as well as in cases of asphyxia not attended with organic lesion?—*Nashville Jour. of Med. and Surgery.*

REMARKS.—The cases above related are highly interesting and instructive. Opium-poisoning in some form, and commonly by the use of Laudanum, meets the physician much more frequently than poisoning by any other agent. It is well, therefore, for every physician to be prepared in his own mind with a course of treatment for a case which may start upon him at any hour. But solitary cases, although valuable, are much less so than a collection of similar cases. In the latter instance, we have an opportunity of comparing symptoms, ascertaining better the different degrees in which the patients were brought under a given morbid influence, i. e., the different *stages* of the case, presented; of learning the different resources to which different practitioners, from choice or circumstances, may resort; and of pronouncing upon the relative value and reliableness of the different curative measures employed. I have accordingly placed the above cases, very unlike in all respects, not only in the character of the patients, the stages and symptoms, but equally so in treatment, side by side for the purpose of comparison; and have consented to add a third case which lately came under my own care, although again the treatment was in some respects different from that of those preceeding, and the case was not one of that extremely dangerous kind, which call for a persevering and long continued use of the most energetic measures at our command.

In Dr. Herapath's Case, the wisdom of dispensing with an emetic, which, now that the poison had had time completely to enter the system of the little patient, would only have occasioned a waste of time,

is very evident. In both the cases, the wonderful efficacy of *artificial respiration*, as a *dernier resort*, is clearly established. When, in the one instance, the Battery ceased to work, and the current of electricity no longer flowed to the nervous centres, and from them out to the respiratory muscles, and when, in the other, the mechanical movements, imitating the act of breathing, were discontinued, the patient rapidly grew worse ; the heart's action grew feeble, or almost wholly ceased ; coma became deeper, and a fatal issue was momentarily threatened. Facts like these must possess great interest in the eyes of the physiologist. The first impulse of the mind, on learning such facts, is to fall in with the doctrine of Mrs. Willard and Dr. Cartwright, and admit that the "chief motive power of the blood is *in the lungs*." Perhaps a more careful consideration of the same cases may be found to lend no support to that doctrine. The truly *eclectic* physiologist must find many indubitable "motive powers" in the human system,—one located in the heart and arteries, one in the blood at large, several in the capillaries of the general system, one or two in the lungs. Now a failure of any particular set of these, breaks the *circle*, i. e., the circulation, in spite of the action of all the others. And unless the failing force can be renewed, life cannot be restored.

Now, in cases of Opium-poisoning, the narcotic, entering the blood from the stomach, circulates to every part, but exerts its benumbing and deadly influence especially upon the great nervous centres,—the brain, medulla oblongata, and spinal cord. Thus it stops, as it were, the action of the human Battery ; the nerves passing off from the centres fail to transmit the usual forces, and the muscles are paralyzed. Respiration now ceases ; and in consequence the circulation comes apparently to a stand, and actually so, if the morbid impression is not soon removed from the nervous centres, or the air artificially introduced into the lungs, to keep up decarbonization of the blood. But the former can not be done so long as the entire blood is steeped in the deadening drug. The latter can be, and this, in bad cases, becomes our only hope. For by keeping up artificial respiration, not only is the blood kept in motion, but the narcotic is gradually exhaled through the lungs and skin,—the blood slowly relieves itself of its burden, the nervous centres wake up from the forced sleep into which they had been thrown, streams of nerve-force flow out along the nerves, the muscles renew their action, the circulation is re-established, and life is thus saved.

But if the capillaries of the general system had been placed under the morbid influence, as they are in incipient *freezing* from general

exposure, everything would again hang upon restoring or keeping up to some extent, the superficial circulation; and yet this would not prove that the "chief motive power of the blood" was *in the skin*. But I have digressed farther than I had intended, and will return to the case promised.

III. *Case of Poisoning by Laudanum.*—About half past 4 o'clock, on the afternoon of July 30th, I was called in haste to see W. M., of this city.

The patient, a young man, about 22 years of age, had taken a quantity of laudanum, it could not be exactly ascertained how much, but between *half an ounce* and *an ounce*. This was swallowed, as near as could be learned, about 1 o'clock; so that the poison had been down from three to three and a half hours. About the time of taking it, he had lain down, and being supposed to have taken a glass too much, was not particularly noticed until a short time before I was called. He had slept most of the time, and had not vomited.

I found the patient still lying on the floor, in a state of complete stupor; the breathing slow, and inclining to be stertorous, (snoring); pulse about 100, full and hard; carotids throbbing powerfully; face and neck deeply flushed; eyes closed, and pupils very much contracted; skin about of natural heat, except the extremities which were cooler.

I immediately gave him about 6 drops of the strongest Aqua Ammonia, which I had taken with me, in a teaspoonful of cold water. To secure the swallowing of this, his nose was firmly held until it went down; and this procedure was necessary with all that was given by the mouth for the first two or three hours. I then had him laid on a bed in the room, and the doors and windows being opened, a fine draught of air was secured. A large bowl of the *strongest coffee* was procured in a few minutes from a neighboring saloon. To a half-tablespoonful of this I added about as much brandy, and from 5 to 10 drops of Ammonia, (fff.) and this dose was given at once, and repeated once in from 15 to 20 minutes through the whole treatment, according as the symptoms seemed to indicate. Meanwhile an injection of about 8 fluid ounces of a mixture of Coffee, *one part*, Brandy, *one part*, cold water, *two parts*, with the addition of 20 drops of Ammonia, was administered by the rectum; and this was repeated once after about an hour.

From the length of time that had elapsed since the swallowing of the poison, I felt convinced that the fluid must be almost or quite absorbed from the stomach, and therefore that an emetic would be comparatively useless. At the earnest request of the friends, however, an emetic was administered, with the help of Dr. J. B. Walker, of this city, consisting of 20 grs. of Sulphate of Zinc, in a little water, and followed in a few minutes by a dessert spoonful of mustard—the latter repeated. Vomiting occurred after a few minutes, with the aid of a little more of the stimulants. But little fluid was thrown up, and I could not detect laudanum in it by the smell. Vomiting occurred again in about half an hour, with the same results.

I should have mentioned that before the administration of the emetic, and after the first injection, there were signs of returning consciousness. The patient groaned, threw his head about, and then doubled up as if suffering with colic, and clutched furiously at his bowels with both his hands, groaning and grating his teeth with a violence that made me fear that the enema had been altogether too powerful for him. These symptoms however did not recur.

From the time the emetic had been got down, the patient was kept almost constantly moving about, being supported between two persons. as he could not use his limbs. In addition to the internal stimulants, his chest was laid bare, and ice-water dashed on the chest and face, and poured on the head; and Ammonia was frequently held to his nose. These latter measures had a fine effect, and he revived at times enough to understand what was said to him; but relapsed completely whenever the means were discontinued for a few minutes.

I had no Tanin, (the best chemical antidote of Opium, though not much to be depended on,) at hand when I began the treatment; and afterward finding he was apparently doing well, I did not give it.

About half past 7 o'clock, the patient was bathed over in a strong liniment, made, *ex tempore*, by steeping black and cayenne pepper in brandy. He had been gradually becoming more conscious for the half hour previous, and continued to gain during the next half hour, so that he could be trusted to sit down for a few minutes and wash his own hands and face in ice-water. A little after eight o'clock, a tub was brought in, the patient was stripped. and standing in it, took a thorough ablution in water at about 60°, and was then dressed in dry clothes, and pronounced out of danger. He was still, however, strongly inclined to go to sleep.. I ordered the stimulants at longer intervals, and left him, with directions that he should not be allowed to go to sleep before midnight. When midnight came he grew sleepless, and did not close his eyes, although quiet was observed in the room, until the next morning when I visited him. I then found his head rather hot, and pulse quick. He had just taken a little nourishment. I had wet cloths put on the head, to be changed frequently. He immediately fell into a quiet sleep, which lasted till near five in the afternoon. Finding a little soreness about the stomach, I advised flax-seed tea to be used freely. In forty eight hours he felt quite recovered; with the exception of weakness, and some inclination to drowse. He had previously enjoyed quite perfect health.

I might have mentioned that about the time he was becoming conscious, he showed symptoms of aberration of mind, somewhat resembling delirium tremens,—starting up suddenly from his stupor, and pointing always towards the east, the light side of the room, calling to those round him to "see those men," and wondering at their numbers, and what they wanted. Whether this was simulated, or not, I cannot say; but the sudden strong rousing from his stupor, at such moments, seemed to forbid the supposition that it was so.

I may repeat that I do not consider this case a very marked or peculiar one: but it may furnish a fair instance of successful treatment

of an ordinary case of poisoning in which the worst fears might not be entertained for the patient, but in which complete consciousness was restored earlier than might have been expected from the character of the symptoms. R.

Expulsion of Tape-worm by Pumpkin Seeds.

BY W. W. ELY, M. D.; ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Having recently had an opportunity to administer the remedy for tape-worm recommended in the Journal for October, 8, 1851, I take the liberty to send you a brief account of its operation.

The patient, an adult, had taken several weeks since, by direction of a physician, some extract of male fern followed by castor oil, which expelled about four feet of worm, together with a number of fragments. The remedy was repeated, but no further benefit was obtained.

There being sufficient evidence, however, that the difficulty was not overcome, I determined, as the case fell under my charge, to try the pumpkin seed orgeat, which was prepared and administered as follows: Six ounces of common pumpkin seeds were thoroughly bruised in a mortar, without removing the outer shells, and a sufficient quantity of water was added to afford by straining and expression one pint of liquid. At 6 o'clock, A. M., the patient took one half of the liquid, or orgeat, and in two hours after half an ounce of castor oil. A slight movement of the bowels followed, with a few fragments of the worm. At 10 o'clock, half an ounce more of oil was given, the abdomen was rubbed with sulph. ether and cold water was directed to be used freely. No food to be taken until after the operation. At 12 o'clock the bowels were evacuated, and an entire worm discharged, eight feet and seven inches in length.

Although the patient is quite feeble from the effects of pulmonary and hepatic disease, no inconvenience has resulted from the remedy. —*Boston Med. & Surg. Jour.*

NATURE'S METHOD OF CURE.—The use of purgatives, leeches, and the lancet, is, perhaps, not so general and manifest in medical practice as it was some years since; but they are still employed much more frequently and liberally in chronic complaints than is necessary or safe. Too many practitioners forget that nature commonly resorts to the mildest and most soothing means, and that by such bland means the most signal advantages are most surely gained. Her mode of operation is uniformly not to pull down, but to build up; and the means which she employs are those which secure to the patient simultaneously an increase of strength, comfort and health. This should ever be our aim; and it is of immense importance that the public should be impressed with the fact, that generally whatever plan of management weakens the patient, and increases his discomfort and pain, is certainly not only inappropriate and ineffectual, but positively injurious, and often permanently so.—*Dr. Graham's Modern Domestic Medicine.*

EDITORIAL.

Physical Science of the Human Body.

FOR GENERAL READING.—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 349.

Perhaps the most important class of the organized vegetable and animal substances, is that the articles of which contain Nitrogen. Without this class of substances, animal bodies and animal life,—human, included,—would be impossible. Of so high import are these compounds, in fact, in Animal Physiology, that the whole class has taken its name specially from the Nitrogen they contain.

Thus, these substances are called *nitrogenized;* or more commonly, (because the word is more convenient,) from *Azote*, another name for Nitrogen, they are termed *azotized.* Some of these will be considered presently.

In contradistinction from these, now, the whole classes of sugar and starch-compounds, fats, oils, balsams, and so on, of which I have already spoken, and which, it will be remembered, contain no Nitrogen, are termed *non-nitrogenized*, or *non-azotized.*

But before speaking of azotized compounds, I must say a few words of the element Nitrogen, and the elements Sulphur and Phosphorus, the former of which they always contain ; the latter, often.

13. NITROGEN.—This is a colorless, tasteless gas. It takes its name from *nitre*, a substance probably well known to the ancient Hebrews and Greeks, and by the latter termed *nitron.* Ordinary nitre is a compound of Nitric acid and Potash : and Nitric acid contains one equivalent of the gas already referred to, combined with five of Oxygen. Its name, Nitrogen, signifies *generator of nitre;* yet it is no more such than the Oxygen or Potash associated with it.

DISCRIMINATION.—Nitrogen is the diluting principle of common air. Being inert itself, it has been, by what we would call in any but the Almighty Chemist a "happy thought," mixed with the *destroyer*, Oxygen, in so large a proportion, about four parts to one, as to dilute, qualify, and temper the latter, and prepare it for the use of animals in the way of respiration.

Yet, inert as this substance is,—limited in its range of affinities, and entering in very small proportion into the animal tissues, still this small share is, as I have already intimated, a *sine qua non*—an indispensable—to animal flesh, and so, to animal life. Had Nitrogen

been overlooked in the work of creation, there is no telling what sort of bodily forms, if any, Spirit would have found to cling to; but certainly they would be very unlike these our good mothers have left us!

Plants find Nitrogen gas in Ammonia. The latter, pure, is also a gas; and, floating about in our atmosphere, becomes dissolved in its watery vapor, falls in dews, rain, and snow, is sucked up by the rootlets of the plant, elevated to the leaves, and there robbed of its Nitrogen, which goes forthwith into a new partnership with some five other elements, and forms Gluten in the wheat, Albumen, in the cabbage, &c. *Guano* owes its fertilizing properties mainly to to the Ammonia it contains. Guano is the mixed *urine* and *fæces* of certain sea-birds, which roost on the coast of South America, and elsewhere. Since all must eat, I am glad that the digestive apparatus of the growing Plant is a powerful renovator,—that the wheat-kernel is clean, no matter what lies at the root it sprung from!

14. SULPHUR.—This is, at ordinary temperatures, a yellow solid, or dust. It was known to the Romans by its present name; and is well known to moderns for its various and important uses in the arts, medicine, and theology. It is also called brimstone,—that is, *burnstone.* A farther description is not necessary.

Sulphur is found in the Fibrin, Albumen and Casein, of both animals and plants.

15. PHOSPHORUS.—This is at ordinary temperatures a dull, cream-yellow solid, of a consistency somewhat soft, like very compact and firm cheese. As it is exceedingly inflammable, taking fire from the heat of the hand, or of a warm atmosphere, and is also insoluble in water, it is generally preserved by covering it with that fluid. Placed in the open air in the night, or rubbed upon a wall, as in lighting a match, it gives out for some time a pale, lambent flame, running over the spot; and hence its name, Phosphorus; that is, *light-bringer*, or light-producer. It is in great demand for scaring raw Collegians!—The Phosphorus of commerce is mostly obtained from bones, in which it exists largely in union with Oxygen, forming Phosphoric acid.

This is also an element in Fibrin, Albumen, and some have recently conjectured, in Casein.

AZOTIZED COMPOUNDS.—16. ALBUMEN.—According to the most reliable chemical analyses that have yet been made, this substance is identical with animal Albumen. Common sense teaches us that this should be so; for animals never feed upon gases and minerals, nor can they, but always on plants, or on animals which were at first nourished by plants. The animal, therefore, must find something ready prepared in the plant, suitable for incorporation into, and increase of, his own tissues. The composition and properties of this substance, for the reason just stated, will be left till we come to the subject of animal chemistry.

Albumen is found largely in the cabbage and turnip, and in grains, nuts, and most other vegetable substances, in moderate quantities.—It exists both in the juices of soft vegetable matter, and stored away in the secreting cells. It is supposed also, according to the most re-

cent observations, to constitute the inner wall of all vegetable cells.

17. CASEIN.—This, in vegetables, is commonly termed *Legumin*. It is found in beans, peas, &c. Identical with animal Casein.

18. FIBRIN.—This is probably nowhere found in a state of purity, or rather, of isolation, in plants. The nearest approach to it is in the *Gluten* of wheat, and of grains which, like it, are capable of being raised by leaven,—grains which are *panifiable*. It will be remembered that bread-raising presupposes two things,—1st, the presence of *sugar*, to form Carbonic acid gas, which may puff up the mass; 2ndly, the presence of some *tough ingredient* which may resist the escape of the gas, and keep it within, to lighten the loaf; and this latter is Gluten.

But Gluten is really a very complex substance, one ingredient only of which is identical with animal Fibrin in composition, and this may be isolated. In properties, this differs, however, from animal Fibrin in the fact that we always find the former in a solid state,—the latter, sometimes solid, sometimes fluid.

Of the three substances last considered, largely produced as they are in growing plants, only one, Albumen, seems to be of any direct use to the plant itself, and even that never in the full quantity found. Hence, these materials seem directly to *contemplate* the existence of a higher order of beings—animals—to which they are the nutriment.

There is another very important class of azotized substances, not nutritious, but remarkable for their *active poisonous*, or *other peculiar* action on the human system, and which are used for the accomplishment of therapeutical indications in cases of disease. I allude to the *Alkaloids*. The composition of Morphine, the best known of these, is C_{35}, H_{20}, $N\,O_6 + 2\,H\,O$; that of Quinine, C_{20}, H_{12}, NO_2. There are many others; mostly narcotics, and powerful poisons.

Another class of substances, sometimes azotized, sometimes not, is a series of *neutral* (neither plainly acid, nor alkaline,) bodies, most of them bitter, some poisonous, among which we find Salicine, Populine, Piperine, Caffeine, (the active principle of Coffee,) &c. In small doses these are mostly tonics and stimulants.

The *Resinoids*, and *Oleo-Resinous* substances lately introduced to the notice of the profession through the labors of Eclectic Pharmaceutists, and constituting some of the most reliable and valuable articles now found in the entire Materia Medica of drugs, probably belong to the class of non-azotized bodies, being allied to the Resins, Balsams, and Oils. Here we find the Podophyllin, Leptandrin, Sanginarin, Stillingin, Iridin, Macrotin, Xanthoxylin, Cypripedin, Hydrastin, and a list constantly increasing.

It may be asked, what has all this to do with the Physical Science of the Human Body?—*Much:* in my humble opinion.

To reiterate some of the principles that have been discovered, or that are deducible from facts observed, during our *detour* through the vegetable kingdom, we may learn:

1. That Nature's laboratory for the production of organizable materials, is the growing plant.

It seems to be a corollary from this proposition, that vegetable food is all-sufficient for animal nutrition ; but we see it could never have been designed to be so with the carnivorous tribes ; and therefore the question whether it is so for Man, remains unanswered from this source.

2. That of six elements,—C, O, H, N, S, and P,—some or all, constitute all the *organized* matters used by the animal, in the making of its solids, and the maintaining of its fluids.

3. That the great secret of organizable matter is in *composition*, or *mixture*, so to speak, of the elements ;—the same elements, otherwise combined, being totally worthless or injurious.

4. That all medicaments are *artificial:* not belonging to the classes of nutritious or digestible bodies, they have *no physiological relation* to the human tissues; and can act physiologically in the body under no circumstances, unless by supplying deficiencies.

5. That healthy human bodies necessarily presuppose healthy food, and hence, first of all, a healthy vegetable kingdom. R.

Mercury in Syphilis.

The god of mendacity is still losing votaries. Many have been the warning voices raised from time to time among the honest and the eminent of all schools of medicine, against mercury as an agent for the cure of disease. Eclectics have not been alone in this. The multiplying hosts advocating the various exclusive systems of reform, have seen the destructive influences of this agent, and have been and are still united in carrying on against it a war of extermination.—This great army has been often quickened in its zeal and courage by most encouraging expressions from, and breaches of allegiance to mercury, on the part of such men as Brodie, Liston, Rush, Chapman, Hunn, Cross, and Guthrie. These and many other eminent and pracical men in the old school ranks, could not refrain at times from speaking of this allopathic *favorite*, in a manner at least so *disrespectful* as to entitle them to the wrath and reprehension of the existing hunkerish medical organizations, to say nothing of the scorn of hundreds of our indolent and self-conceited country blue pill dignitaries.

In addition to the great amount of testimony against the use of mercurials in the treatment of Syphilis, we will here present some of the plain and forcible statements of Fred. D. Lente, M. D., formerly a resident surgeon in the New York Hospital, and at this time surgeon to the " West Point Foundry," as published in the last "New York Jour. of Med." The New York Hospital offers facilities among the very best in our country for the study of this disease, and it is no doubt true, that it fell to Dr. Lente's "lot to see a great deal of *Syphilis*, in all its various forms—primary, secondary, tertiary and hereditary; and to witness the fact that, although a wonderful improvement has been made in its treatment since the days of Hunter and Swediaur, to go no further back, *there still remains great room for improvement.*"

Dr. L. thinks, that most of the beneficial change which has been made in the management and results of syphilis, is due, 1st. "To the solution of the question of the non-identity of the two poisons of syphilis and gonorrhœa, and to the treatment resulting;"—2nd. To the introduction of what is called simple treatment, thereby *proving the possibility of curing every genital sore without the use of mercury*; —3d. To M. Ricord, aided by inoculation, showing that chancre in its first stage is strictly "*a local disease*," &c., facts presented by M. Christophers, through the London Lancet in January, 1852.

Dr. L., in the article from which we quote, aims most of his arguments against the use of mercury as *a preventive of secondary syphilis*, reserving the right to use it in some instances in both the *primary and secondary stages*. But in this his arguments remind us of the Paddy's musket, which knocked himself over more effectually than the game aimed at. It will be seen that his remarks help to confirm the doctrines of the Eclectic school, that syphilis in all of its stages can be treated more successfully without, than with mercurials.

He says, "What effect has mercury in preventing secondary syphilis? It is a question more easily asked than answered. Has it any such effect? * * We are certainly *unable to say positively that we have ever seen one case rendered proof against secondary syphilis by taking mercury*; *while we can give* SEVERAL, *in which secondary symptoms were* ORIGINATED BY MERCURY, *and a number in which this agent materially aggravated the disease.* Indeed we have been struck on examining the works of great writers and lecturers on syphilis, with the fact that the strongest evidence of the inutility and injuriousness of mercury when used as an preventive, is to be drawn from the recorded experience of those who practiced and advocated its employment. We have the evidence of no less a personage than Ricord against the prophylactic use of mercury in, at least, a majority of cases of primary syphilis; and constructive evidence almost as strong may be drawn from the writings of Sir Benjamin Brodie, Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Liston, all authorities of the first rank, and all advocates of mercury. While the testimony of those opposed to the use of mercury is, of course, still stronger. To mention only a few instances, for we have not the time, and would not presume to ask the space to sum up all the evidence which is at our disposal: Mr. Rose, an English army surgeon, treated all the syphilitic patients which came under his charge for two years, (and the number was very large), without mercury. Sir B. Brodie says, —'I saw these cases, and every now and then, watched their progress with him (Dr. Rose). Every sore upon the organs of generation was cured under his management, without the aid of this agent' (mercury). 'Many of the patients,' he goes on to say, '*never had secondary symptoms*; which may, however, be attributed to the sore not having been venereal. In some cases, where secondary symptoms appeared, they were slight, in others severe, exhibiting their usual character. Whatever they were, they *yielded without mercury*. Other army surgeons repeated these experiments, and arrived at the same results.' 'With

respect, however, to recovery from syphilis,' Sir Benjamin continues, 'without the aid of mercury, I do not believe you can apply a rule drawn from the observation of what occurs in soldiers to society at large.' Nevertheless, the valuable testimony of Sir B. Brodie in this case proves this much, that secondary symptoms did not come on more frequently in these cases than among those treated by mercury. Mr. Newbigging, physician to a venereal hospital in Edinburgh, treated upwards of six hundred cases without mercury, and he draws the following conclusions from his trial: '1st. That the venereal disease is curable without the employment of mercury. 2d, That the duration of treatment is shorter than when mercury is employed. And, 3d, That the *cases of secondary symptoms* supervening after the simple method, are *less frequent* and *not so serious* in their nature as under the mercurial system.'

We have said that mercury orignates the symptoms usually attributed to secondary syphilis, and aggravates them when they are present: and we now present some examples, not only from our own experience, but from that of the celebrated authorities before alluded to. Sir Benjamin Brodie says, in criticising Mr. Rose's treatment, 'I know that, in patients treated by mercury, there is a greater chance of disease of the bones than there was in Mr. Rose's patients, to whom it was not exhibited; and I know that when given for liver complaints, and for diseased testicles, it may *produce* nodes.' Mr. Liston says: 'Long continuance of a mercurial course predisposes to periostitis; and exposure to cold, while a patient is undergoing that medicine, is a frequent cause of periostitis.' In January, 1851, there were two cases of nodes under my charge in ward 3 of the marine building of the New York Hospital: one, a very respectable middle-aged Scotchman, named McKennon, had large nodes on his skull. He strongly asserted his innocence of any venereal taint, and there were no vestiges of it to be found on his body. He stated that he had suffered an attack of fever on the Mississippi River, and that he had been dosed with immense quantities of calomel—teaspoonful doses! The other patient was a boatman on the Hudson, and an old acquaintance in the hospital, being a notorious votary of Venus.—He had been twice treated for the primary disease in the hospital, and both times by mercury carried to the usual extent, with a view to prevent secondary attacks. He had large nodes on his tibia, and one on the left ulna. Both these cases were treated in the same manner: that is, by the internal administration of the iodide of potassium, and the local application of the tinct. of iodine, and both perfectly recovered. These are instructive cases: one showing that *mercury is capable of giving rise to symptoms not to be distinguished from those ascribed to secondary syphilis*; the other, that the same symptoms may occur after primary syphilis has been treated by mercury with a view to prevent them. In the latter case, it is IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WHETHER THE AFFECTION IS SYPHILITIC OR MERCURIAL.

Here is another case in point. Patrick O'Brien, a healthy-looking Irishman, aged 35, under treatment in ward 15, main building, for

syphilitic ulceration of the throat of a severe character, was thoroughly mercurialized by minute doses of hydrarg. bichlor. and by mercurial fumigations. After he had been in this condition for some days, he was attacked with a furious secondary iritis, which yielded completely, though slowly, to the iodide of potassium, which medicine appears to have the power of counteracting the evil effects of mercury. We not unfrequently have patients return to the hospital months after an attack of primary syphilis, for which they were thoroughly mercurialized, with secondary symptoms, though they deny any fresh infection. On the other hand, cases that never have taken mercury in the primary disease, have entirely escaped the secondary, at least for two or three years, or as long as the observation of the physician has extended.

A surgeon in the U. S. navy informs me, that he never uses mercury on board ship in any form of primary syphilis, and he rarely sees secondary symptoms ensue during the voyage, which sometimes extends to three years.

We have the evidence also of Sir Charles Bell, that mercury will give rise to worse symptoms and more intractable diseases than that which it is intended to prevent.

We object to the employment of mercury with a view to prevent the occurrence of secondary symptoms on six grounds.

First. It is not proved that it *ever* does act as a preventive. Nor can any of its warmest and wisest advocates explain *how* or *why* it does so act!!

Secondly. It *is* proved, and admitted by almost all writers on mercury, and on syphilis, that this agent *not only often precipitates and aggravates secondary symptoms,* BUT ACTUALLY ORIGINATES THEM, *or produces them when the primary disease would not have done so!!*

Thirdly. It is well known that there are constitutions which will not bear the administration of mercury in any stage of the disease; but in which, this agent, *instead of acting as a remedy, is converted into a poison, and it is* IMPOSSIBLE *for the most astute physician to ascertain that such an idiosyncrasy exists until the evil has been consummated!!*

Fourthly. It is shown by the researches of medical writers on this subject, that only a proportion of those affected with primary syphilis are ever troubled with secondary symptoms (one in ten, according to Guthrie). Therefore we may be introducing a DANGEROUS *and often* UNCONTROLLABLE AGENT into the system, to ward off an evil which may, with strong probability, never appear.

Fifthly. We think that it is shown, by a careful examination of different writers on syphilis, even those who employ mercury as a prophylactic, that at least *as many* recover without the occurrence of secondary symptoms, when mercury is not employed as when it is!!

Sixthly. If we employ mercury as a preventive, we never can be sure that we have carried our mercurial treatment far enough, or hat we have not carried it too far; for it is admitted on all sides,

that there is no criterion. Different rules are given by each individual writer. It is too often, as Sir Charles Bell says, 'A certain number of dozens of pills, a certain weight of mercurial ointment is used, and that is the whole rule of many practitioners.' It is admitted by most writers, that *ptyalism* is not an indication that the system has been sufficiently impregnated with the mercurial influence, and equally so that no definite period of time can be laid down, in which the constitution may be supposed to be sufficiently affected, though some *vague* general rules to this effect are given by most of them.

We gain this much by not employing mercury as a prophylactic. We curtail the average duration of the treatment about one-half, for a chancre can often be healed, and an incipient bubo discussed in one or two weeks, and then we consider the patient cured.—Whereas, under the prophylactic treatment, he must remain under medicine six weeks longer; and he must, after this, pay the utmost attention to his diet and exposure for about an equal length of time. In the one case, we have only to fear the after effects of the disease; in the other, we dread not only these, but the evils of a mercurial cachexia, which are worse, or of both combined!!"

That is so, Doctor, precisely so, and upon the same grounds we have long objected to its employment in all cases. It is, in our opinion, not only well established "that there are constitutions which *will not bear the administration of mercury in* ANY STAGE *of disease*," and "that it is impossible for the most astute physician" to detect such peculiarities, that mercury is not only "*a dangerous and often uncontrollable agent*" which "*aggravates secondary symptoms*," and "*gives rise to symptoms which it is impossible to say are syphilitic or mercurial;*" and that the "certain number of dozens of pills, and certain weight of mercurial ointment" when administered *secundem artem*, under the prescribed "vague general rules," does "more harm than good," often producing or aggravating the disease; but it is also well established, that "*the venereal disease is curable without mercury*," (even in such cases as Dr. L. would use it,) and that, too, in a "*shorter space of time than when mercury is employed.* Then where is the least apology for using it? There is none, and we are pleased to see such men as Dr. L. labor with the multitude in making rapid and sure the flight of the "calomel era." L. C. D.

Old School Liberality, and New School Hunkerism.

"Reforms," says one, "are always born outside of established orders and systems of things." We may add that they grow, take shape, and become perfected, outside of established systems. But how is it when they come to maturity? Why, then, consummated, finished, as they are found to be, they are, all at once, discovered to be now a part of the established order of things. They have ceased to be Reforms, and constitute a part of the world's received, or "orthodox" creed. But the world's "orthodox" creed is now in advance of what it was years or centuries since, when those Reforms were

first projected. And yet it is not a perfect creed; and farther-seeing eyes, and more philosophic brains, are even then busy in catching the ideas of new Reforms, which are in their turn to run the same course of trial and perfection, and to be admitted at some day in the future, as sections re-revised, in the world's "Code."

For *Reform* is not *Progress*, any more than the individual Polype is the great coral island. Each Polype works,—all the millions of Polypi-dom are working,—and while the individual workers come and go, the great work,—the upheaving island,—grows broader, towers higher, and is covered with a denser and prouder life of plant, bird, beast and Man. This is Progress. The toils of the single, or associate builders, are only Reforms.

Thus we see that Reforms are necessarily short-lived: they do their work, and disappear. But Progress is the endless thread into which enter the separate filaments of the life and labors of every true worker. When we look at it, there is not a dogma in the world's creed now, however hateful and hunkerish it may look to some of us, but is in reality a Reform come down from some past age. The universal opinion is but a tissue of Reforms. The fault we have to find with many of these Reforms, however, is, that they did not depart with the age to which they belonged! They were *Truth* once; as before that they were *Heresy*: but now they have outlived their usefulness, and are gray-headed, limping, garrulous *Lies!*

Let us apply these Truisms to the Medical Systems* of the present day. Allopathy *was* a Reform: men rose one step in that,—from doing little, because they knew little; to doing more, because they knew more. Whether they did *better*, as well as more, is a question that begins to be seriously raised at this day; because men are coming to know more *than* the *more* of a few centuries since.

But till within a few years, Allopathy, as a system, has not been progressive. As a Science, it has been so; and as a system it has been constantly enlarging—growing broader,—but not progressing,—going forward. None are too blind to see the difference here stated; nor are Allopathists likely to deny the facts; yet they constantly imply a contrary assurance, when they deny the assertions of Reformers of the present day, and point to their advancement in Therapeutics, as evidence of their progression. But merely substituting a more, for a less, efficient healing agent, is not progress. All that is enlargement. Progress is the elevation of an entire system of means from a lower, less beneficent principle of action, to one that is higher, truer, so to speak, and more philanthropic. Men may add fact to fact in a system, as the snow-ball at the mountain's top adds layer to layer over its surface; and the result may be in the former case, as in the latter, but a gigantic avalanche that plunges lower and lower as it grows, and buries everything in its track. But none will boast of such progress.

Allopathy is now, however, becoming "divided," not "against,"

*For medical systems there are, in spite of the great *All-engulfing* of Allopathy, Dr. Wm. Maxwell Wood, who, when he declared that there can be "but *one System*," forgets that he means, but one Science, of Medicine. There are as many systems as there are fundamentally different rationales of medical practice.

but within itself. While some in its ranks are stationary, many more, and among them the brightest lights of the Profession, are becoming really progressive. I shall return to this thought presently.

Homeopathy *is* a Reform. Whether this system has within itself elements of progress, also, others can better decide than myself.

Thomsonism *was* a Reform. Not only, however, was its foundation narrow and ill-laid, as every cultivator of true science and sound sense must testify, but, strange to say, its advocates have ever been too much opposed to change, (which is necessary to all progression,) and they still openly cling with religious tenacity to the crude dogmas of their founder, and his immediate co-workers. No revolution ever needed revolutionizing at so early a day, as Thomsonism. That work we see begun in the Physo-Medical System ; a great advance on the parent system.

Hydropathy *is* a Reform. Fortuitously, perhaps,—perhaps necessarily,—Hydropathy has drawn into its ranks from the first a class of minds the very opposite of those who embraced Thomsonism. It has allured the radical, the Image-breakers among the treasures of antiquity, the investigating, the onward-reaching, and hence, as a System, as fast as progress is possible, this, it would seem, should be progressive.

Eclecticism *is* a Reform. But like Allopathy, Eclecticism is divided within itself ; and for the same reason. Eclecticism contains within itself both conservative and radical minds. It is, practically, a broad system, hinging on one side upon Allopathy and Thomsonism, on the other, upon Hydropathy, and farther still, upon Expectancy, and the "grace of God."

It is a serious question, now, whether Eclecticism, as it is popularly understood, embraced, and defended, does contain, and is to contain, enough of the elements of Progress to renew its value and truthfulness with each succeeding century, and so constitute a nucleus for the true system of future times,—or whether it will satisfy itself with the short-lived work of reforming the abuses existing at the period of its birth, and be left to be superseded at no distant day by *truer Truth*, and swept into the grave with so many dead systems of the past.—Upon this question, I have my hopes, and my fears, as have, probably, many who are endeavoring to solve it. Without, however, attempting a solution of it at this time, I shall close this randoming article with a few thoughts more directly growing out of my text.

It needs but a glance at the writings, and a slight acquaintance with the Practitioners, of the Allopathic School, at the present day, to assure us of the fact that a decided progress is taking place, in large portions, at least, of the ranks of that ancient fraternity. The Allopathic sentiment of our country and the world, is being new-shaped, tempered, liberalized.

In the tone of the standard works of that School, we see a decided advance upon that of a half-century, or even a single decade since. How vastly more mild the treatment prescribed by Wood, than that by Eberle, or Mackintosh. How much less dependence is placed by the latter on the Lancet, Opium, and Mercury. How much more

of *careful discrimination* and *anxious caution* marks all our more recent authorities of the Old School, as to the precise stages, complications, phases, and diatheses under which a given disease may show itself, when it will, or will not, be safe or allowable to resort to the use of the "heroic remedies." This is a very noticeable feature of all their writings at this day ; and it is significant of much good. The Lancet, which once gleamed with a deadly light over the whole broad region of febrile, inflammatory and convulsive diseases, and the entire category of injuries, is now restricted here, and utterly disallowed there, and is in all its operations so "cabin'd, cribb'd, confined," that, had the poor thing sense, it would be likely to abandon the medical *armamentarium* at once, in shame of its utter fall. So, too, Opium and Tartar Emetic sink in the general estimation ; and Mercury, contracted in all its operations, is threatened with the entire loss of the domains of Scrofula and Syphilis ! Meanwhile the introduction of medicaments and measures originating with the Thomsonian, Eclectic, and Hydropathic Schools, has had a happy effect in ameliorating the old practice.

Perhaps the most marked of all these improvements is the introduction of *water* so extensively into the appliances of Surgery. Meanwhile we see Dr. Beach's Anti-Bilious Physic cleverly imitated, as a substitute for Blue Pills ; Calomel scouted, and Podophyllin exalted, in Yellow Fever ; a Hydropathic article of ultra stamp, admitted into the pages of the Boston Medical Journal ; the scientific Editor of the Buffalo Medical Journal cautioning his brethren against "monumentalism ; " and the British and Foreign Medico-Chirurg. Review, in science and standing the first in the English Language, leading off in the crusade against blind "heroism" in treatment, and advocating the mildest measures, and the constant introduction of reforms !—These are cheering indications, surely.

It is true, there are marked exceptions to this general spirit of awakening liberality. It is true that our own quiet, inland city boasts its Sangrado,—a physician, whose name, if it were not N———, should be Phlebotomy,—and its Paracelsus too, a *regular*, walking synonym for Calomel ! But these men are growing scarce,—"*raræ aves in terris*,"—and we are not sure but Barnum promises to live long enough to make a smart speculation yet out of the last of the Heroicals ! We will freely give a "quarter" to see him ; and so, (we vouch for it,) will many of his own living brethren. I think, notwithstanding these exceptions, here and there to be encountered, the friends of Medical Reform everywhere will agree with me as to the fact of this decided, universal movement in favor of a milder, safer, more cautious medication ; and surely all friends of humanity will rejoice in view of such knowledge, and will feel disposed to give all due credit to those who are thus magnanimously breaking through the shackles of prejudice, and without the name, securing the substance, of Reform and Progress in Medicine.

The brief experience of the Editors of this Journal, has given them many opportunities of witnessing exemplifications of the increasing liberality of which I have been speaking. We have the names of a

goodly number of Allopathic physicians, and those in good standing, on our subscription list. Our Journal has received a friendly recognition through the pages of contemporaries of that School. We have a large and increasing list of *Exchanges;* including some of the most expensive and most valuable of the Journals and Reprints of our country. We shall give a list of these at some future time. We would not boast; but simply desire to acknowledge favors, and return our thanks for the kind and favorable consideration we have almost universally met with, at the hands of our brethren of the Allopathic School.

It is needless to say, however, that, at the same time that we make these acknowledgements, we remain no less opposed to what have been considered by us as errors in Allopathy, than ever. We confess to no greater affiliation of medical theories, or harmony of medical practice, than heretofore. But we cannot but rejoice that a blind prejudice and self-interest are evidently less influential than heretofore, in shaping the course of our rivals; and that while they and we must disagree, there is hope that we all may yet come together on terms of courtesy, friendship, and admitted equality.—But the subject grows upon my hands, and I must leave it abruptly for the present. R.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Notices of Books.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ECLECTIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, at its Annual meeting held at Rochester, N. Y., May 11th, 1852, together with the accepted reports presented by the members. Rochester: published by Erastus Darrow, 1852; 8vo. pp. 173. (from the publisher.)

We would like to afford our readers a correct idea of the handsome and valuable book, now offered to their notice with the above title.—It is very reasonable to suppose that the assemblage of liberal and progressive minds from various parts of the country, in the capacity of a National Convention, would bring together, elicit and develope facts and principles, sufficient both in number and interest, for publication in book form. That this is now well known to be true in the instance of the last meeting of the National Eclectic Medical Association, we need scarcely assure such as were deprived of attendance.—There has been no lack of matter, and the Committee of Publication have executed their task with care and honor.

The minutes of the proceedings of each session are first given, together with interesting letters and reports from absent members.—Following these is the annual address by Prof. O. Davis, a production highly creditable to its author. Various Reports upon Obstetrics,—Surgery,—Medical Statistics,—Medical Literature,—The Circulation; its producing forces, and its relations to health,—Materia Medica and Therapeutics,—Chemistry,—Eclecticism; what it is, and what it may be, and a Circular Address to Eclectics throughout the United States, from the committee appointed by the Convention.—The Reports are highly instructive and practical in their character, though many of them, it appears, were prepared without view of publication.

We may say the Report upon the Circulation, &c., is of rare interest. The subject of the nature and source of the various forces concerned in the circulation, is eliciting at this time, throughout the profession, more discussion than any other one connected with medical science, and no Essay extant will afford so much light upon, and so fully elucidate the intricacies and established facts relating thereto, as the last mentioned report by Dr. Reuben. It contains a review of "Mrs. Willards's Theory," with a very convincing *expose* of its several errors, and particularly of the disposition common to her and most of the physiologists, to refer the circulation to a single force.—The fair, sensible and scientific manner in which this subject is presented, aside from the large amount of other important matter contained in the work, makes it highly desirable that it should find its way into the hands of every physician in our country, as well as many others interested in physiological and medical science.

Those living at a distance may secure the work free of postage from Erastus Darrow, or the Publishers of the E. J. of Medicine, by a remittance of only fifty cents.

WILKINSON'S FAMILY MEDICAL PRACTICE, in one volume. By G. E. Wilkinson, M. D.,—Cincinnati: published by M. Swank, M. D., 1852; 8vo. pp. 432 (from the publisher.)

This work has been placed upon our table for notice. It gives ostensibly, 1st, An examination of the Allopathic System of Medicine, 2nd, The fundamental principles of the Botanic Practice, 3d, Theory and Practice of Botanic Medicine, 4th, Vegetable Materia Medica, 5th, Pharmacy, 6th, Brief remarks on Conception, Pregnancy, and diseases peculiar to women and children. When tried by Allopathic witnesses, judges and jury, the author finds the Old School practice uncertain, absurd, and destructive, and condemns it, without commendation to mercy, either human or Divine. The chapters upon various diseases and remedies are brief, evidently written under very unfavorable circumstances, and by one who should make "no unblushing pretensions to science." For *families* who may wish for little more than a smattering of *botanic* practice, it is evidently designed, and to such we can commend it.

GOD IN DISEASE. OR THE MANIFESTATIONS OF DESIGN IN MORBID PHENOMENA. By James F. Duncan, M. D, Physician to Sir P. Dun's Hospital, Dublin. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1852; 12mo. pp. 232. (from the publishers.)

This work is truly unique in its character. and is not less single in its kind than superior in its excellence. The author analyzes the phenomena of morbid conditions of the human body, with much system, and in showing the evidences of design, contrivance and beneficence, he fails not to impress the reader with the Divine wisdom therein displayed. The processes of preservation and reparation are beautifully illustrated. It is made clear that visitations of sickness are not casual occurrences, nor punishments specially inflicted from Divine wrath, and also that the "*vis medicatrix naturæ*" as manifested in the processes of preservation and reparation, is not the result of a "blind chance working in the dark, but of an intelligent cause presiding over and directing its operations," and though a law originally implanted in the constitution, gives no less proof of design

[illegible] benevolence. Many diseases are shown to illustrate various [illegible] truths; physicians and patients are admonished of the manner in which they should meet their bodily afflictions, and the whole work declares its author intellectually and religiously qualified for his task. For sale by E. Darrow. L. C. B.

Monthly Medical Abstract.

Cholera in Rochester.—The epidemic which has occasioned considerable excitement in our city and vicinity, has almost entirely subsided. For something more than a week past (Aug. 20th.) the number of cases reported to the Board of Health has ranged only from four to twelve daily, deaths, two to five, daily. Though occasioning a mortality very uncommon to our usually healthy city, the instances in which those of temperate and otherwise prudent habits have been attacked, are very rare. It is abundantly plain, that for its victims, the scourge owes everything here, as elsewhere, to filth, and intemperate habits in drinking and eating; to which must be added the use of the lancet, and a few other quackish measures of treatment. The disease, under the rational treatment of the Eclectic School, has been found very manageable. The results of the Eclectic practice here, have fully verified the statistics heretofore given in other cities. But few, if any, have been lost when taken before the stage of collapse; and in a few instances, cases have been raised even after they had become pulseless, and other symptoms of collapse existed. We may find room in a future number of the Journal, for an *Exposé* of some of the foolish philosophy and fatal practice of a few professional and competitory brethren, which has come under our observation.

Medical Schools.—The last course of lectures in the *Worcester Medical College* was well attended. The Institution evinces much stability and growing interest. Prof. L. Reuben has accepted the Chair of Materia Medica and Hydro-Therapeutics. It is decided to have only a Spring Session each year.—The *E. M. Institute of Cincinnati* reports 212 Matriculates for the last Winter and Spring Sessions. New incumbents of Chairs are recently announced in place of Profs. L. G. Jones, Sanders, and Freeman.—The *American Reform Medical Institute of Louisville* has reorganized, and advertizes a Winter Session. C. J. Childs, M. D., is Dean of the Faculty.—The Second Annual Announcement and Catalogue of Students of the *Eclectic Medical College of Pennsylvania* has made its appearance. This shows, for the last session, a list of sixteen matriculates and four graduates; and assures the public that the College has passed its days of trial. A faculty of six professors is announced. Fees, $12,00 for each Professor; Graduation, $25,00.—*Central Medical College* promises no abatement in interest, thoroughness of instruction, and character and number of pupils. Its Faculty and friends were never laboring more [illegible] for the permanent interests of the institution, and the many new and old students who have assured us of their presence in November, will find all things in readiness.—*Syracuse Medical College* announces four new Professors, and promises "better things" in the future.

A Strange Appetite.—The Baton Rouge Gazette tells of a negro who was fast wasting away, and became a mere skeleton, and all hope of saving him was given up, when it was found that he was addicted to eating rags. He would eat his clothes, blankets, and every description of cloth ; would even sell his rations for old clothes to eat. Large pieces of woolen, cottonade, &c., were taken from him. Since deprived of them, he has become quite strong and healthy.

Operations for Cancer.—The Professor of Surgery in the Royal College of Surgeons, (Mr. Paget,) in a lecture upon "Malignant Tumors," made the startling announcement, that persons operated upon for cancer, died, upon an average, thirteen months sooner of their disease than those who were not operated upon. The average was taken from upwards of sixty cases, at the same time omitting all those who died from the immediate effects of the operation. Is not this another virtual admission that the Old School treatment of cancer is worse than useless? How many there are who make the knife their only reliance, and declare to those who will not submit to the operation, that nothing else can be done.

Insanity—its bearing on some of the Elements of Civilization.—The proportion of the insane to the population in various civilized countries, as given in a French Medical Journal, is as follows :—In New York, 1 in 721 ; in England, 1 in 783 ; in Scotland, 1 in 563 ; in France, 1 in 1000 ; in Italy, 1 in 4879. It is supposed to be the least common where there is a predominance of agriculturalists, and where intemperance and other vices are the least prevalent.

Suspension of Gum-Resins.—When it is desirable to add gum asafœtida, gum myrrh, and other gum-resins to enemas, &c., M. Pouline recommends incorporating them, first, with sweet almond oil, in the proportion of twenty or thirty drops of the oil to a drachm of the gums.

Extract of Red Clover Blossoms for Tetter.—Dr. Donis recommends, through the Nashville Journal of Medicine, the ext. of red clover blossoms for the cure of the various forms of tetter, he having used it with success for five years. He applies it twice a day for several days, washing the parts clean before its application. If it occasions much burning, follow with the stramonium ointment. If on the head. the growth of hair is encouraged by sponging with Cologne and whiskey.

Eclecticism in Canada.—We are frequently receiving most encouraging accounts of the success of Eclectic practitioners in Canada. Nearly, if not all these, have given their confidence and support, heartily, thus far, to Central Medical College, and now find satisfactory assurances that these have not been misplaced. It is hoped that neither unwarrantable pretensions, intrigue, or solicitations are necessary to retain for C. M. College the patronage extended in the past, by the liberal portion of the profession in the Queen's Domain.

L. C. D.

Miscellany.

Unintentional Injustice.—An article on the Hydropathic Treatment of Enteritis was copied into our pages last month, without an acknowledgement that it was taken from the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal. This was wrong; but it was not designed. We wish to deal honorably by all our contemporaries, and to give due credit for all we borrow from them. Especially do we set too highly by the Journal just mentioned, willingly to defraud it of a particle of its just dues. We hope to read our proof-sheets in future with less fog about our optics. We think a similar endeavor on the part of some who come to our pages for matter, would be highly commendable!

Avoid Technicalities—technical marks, understood only by the initiated, and "all that sort of thing," as much as possible. Friends, who write for our pages, this is our *earnest request*. Perhaps you think the Editors need this admonition, personally. Very well, then, there is a chance for you to set us an excellent example! And remember, I have only said, "as much as possible." There are cases in which technicalities are unavoidable.

When we take articles from the medical Periodicals of the day, technicalities constitute our greatest difficulty. Some of the rough places of Hog-Greco-Latinity we smooth down as well as we can; but time, patience, and margin fail us, to do all. But when our friends write for our pages, they will find it easier to write straight-forward Anglo-American, as near as medicine will allow of it,—our friend *Typo* will be grateful, and the Reader will give us all,—Writer, Typo, and Editor,—greater credit, because he knows what he has been perusing.

Medical Reform can afford to speak English, for she has "lots" of friends who use that noble language! Again Medical Reform depends for her support and final triumph, not on the *ignorance*, but on the *intelligence* of the people. Think of that!

Contributions thankfully received.—We believe we have been able to furnish our Readers some most excellent articles in the way of selected matter; but we always like to furnish them a good quota of sound original Essays. We have been thus far favored with a fair supply; and we hope for an increasing list in the future. Let us have articles, ye who are "ready writers,"—theoretical or practical, experimental or descriptive. Please send on your strong "cases." In fact, we like to hear from all our subscribers, over and over again; and so we say write—write anything,—no matter if a dollar or two slips into your letter now and then, (and we *have* picked some bank bills out of our letters lately—please see *receipts*,)—anything you have a mind to write, except, "stop my paper." This last we very seldom see.

But, soberly,—shall we look for a large supply of original matter, and that forthwith? Our Readers have been much pleased with the communications of Drs. P. C. Dolley, Hadley, O. Davis, Cleveland,

P. John, Wm. H. Cook, H. Marsh, Elmer, Paine, Horton, Skellenger, Kayner, and many others ; and will be glad, ever and anon, to renew their acquaintance.

We seldom dictate to our contributors relative to the manner of their articles ; but a rule of composition has lately been introduced which is so wonderfully concise, comprehensive, and to the point, that we can not forbear inserting it. It is as follows : "*Begin with the beginning, and stop when you get through !*" This rule we conscientiously obey.

WATTS' NERVOUS ANTIDOTE.—This wonderful curative (!) is made by a man in New York, and sold by every druggist, of every city, hamlet, and "cross-roads" in the United States, who can get a customer to buy it. What are its uses? Let us see : a Nervous Antidote, must, if it is anything, be an *antidote* to *nerves*. What should those unfortunate people do, then, who are afflicted with *nerves ?*—They should take the "Antidote," by all means, and get rid of them! I advise all such to do so. For my own part, I find nerves very convenient. I do not doubt the "Antidote" has perfectly cured the manufacturer ; but I will strengthen more "nerves" with a fat "portemonie," than he will with his patented slop.

BUFFALO MEDICAL COLLEGE.—Prof. Palmer has resigned the chair of Anatomy in this school, and accepted the same in that at Louisville, Ky. Prof. E. M. Moore, a resident of our city. and well known as a successful surgeon, and an acceptable Lecturer, has been elected to the vacant Chair in Buffalo.

CENTRAL COLLEGE, McGrawville, N. Y.—Rev. T. Stowe, a zealous Reformer in more than one field, in a published letter, remonstrates with the managers of this College, on account of their intention of establishing a Medical Department, to be taught by those of Allopathic faith. Surely Allopathists find support enough, in making Colleges, at least, without co-operation of confessed radicals. Reforms should go hand in hand ; and no man can adopt or sustain too many of them at once.

"IMPROVED GRAHAM FLOUR."—I have tried the article ; and am inclined to hope that the barrel I got was a spurious brand. It don't work. I shall incline to believe hereafter, that to talk of "improved Graham Flour," is about as rational as to talk of *improved Nature !*

"ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY persons died in New York, during the last twelve months, of delirium tremens ! There were nine murders caused by rum, and nearly ten thousand five day commitments for drunkenness during the same time."

JOURNAL OF ORGANIC AND MEDICAL CHEMISTRY.—The Editor of the Boston Med. & Surg. Journal speaks very handsomely of this Journal, edited by Drs. Elmer and Hendrickson, N. Y., and we think its compliment deserved. We shall notice the Journal at another time, as also the American Pharm. Institute, under the superintendence of the same gentlemen.

Pepsin, again.—Friends, at Worcester, Mass., and elsewhere, have been pleased to speak favorably of the few thoughts thrown out in our Miscellany some time since, on Pepsin: They will accept our thanks, and allow a word more on the same subject.

I never analyzed the contents of the "fourth stomach" of an ox, or the scrapings of its mucous membrane; but from what I know of the nature of Pepsin, which acts as a sort of *ferment*, in aiding the digestive process, and from the fact that a very trifle of any ferment is sufficient to set up the required change in a large amount of material,—"a *little* leaven leaveneth the whole lump,"—I hazard the assertion, that every bottle of Pepsin sent out to our drug-stores would require the use of the stomachs of a *dozen oxen* (or cows,) and that there are one hundred bottles of Pepsin in the market, during any given month, for every single stomach of ox or cow, slaughtered in Philadelphia during the same time!—*Query:* Who buys ox-paunches of the butchers all over our country, to feed Dr. Houghton's dyspeptics? Whoever knows of any such agent, will confer a favor by sending us word.

Value of Green-Houses to Invalids.—Dr. A. H. Stephens, of Astoria, N. Y., long so eminent in his profession, furnishes the following interesting fact to the Horticulturist: "Having for many years suffered from a pulmonary complaint, I am led to avail myself of your Journal, to offer some observations on a subject lying midway between our respective callings. Some ten or twelve years since, in visiting the green-house of Mr. Niblo, then my neighbor in Broadway, during the winter, I found the atmosphere exceedingly congenial. It abated my cough, rendered the expectoration loose and easy, softened the skin, and induced a comfortable state of feeling, approaching to exhilaration. Wishing to have such an atmosphere at command, I constructed a cold grapery, in which, whenever it has been convenient, I have passed the hours of reading and study. The climate of a cold green-house in a sunny day of the winter or spring, is a Florida climate, and is entirely different from that of an artificially heated atmosphere. I venture to recommend it under most circumstances to pulmonary invalids, in preference to the more expensive plan of removal to the South, involving, as it does, much discomfiture, interruption of business, hazardous exposure, and entire separation from friends."

Pure-Water.—Without joke, "pure water" is a panacea. Every living human being should use it if possible. But in view of its wonderful virtues, a question has arisen lately. It is, whether "pure soft water" will drown a person. Certain it is, that in every case of drowning hitherto known, the water has been "hard," or otherwise impure! As the "Great Unwashed" declares himself unqualified to answer, the question must be referred to the board of the American Hydropathic Institute.

Bone in the heart of the Bos.—One of our Medical Journals thus heads a case in which ossification was found to have taken place in the heart of an ox. *Mr. O'Toole*, hearing the caption read, has just laid down his hod to say that "he suspects there's bone in the hearts of almost all Bosses!" Strange fact in Pathology! B.

ECLECTIC
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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Medical Education of Women.

BY PROF. O. DAVIS.

Messrs. Editors:—The public, query the utility of the education of women in Medical Science. All agree, however, that our ideas of social progress are intimately connected with her mental and physical elevation. What kind of knowledge, then, is best adapted to improve her condition? Our common schools, academies and even higher institutions, give her the same discipline, only to a more limited extent, that they give the rougher sex. We suppose she possesses similar faculties of mind and mental powers, to be developed, and that she requires a similar process of training in order to *complete* a proper developement.

There is a great diversity in taste of study and pursuit, and there is also, greater cultivation in every direction than formerly. Once the physician's fallible word was law, and the people trembled, as to them, destiny *seemed* a willing servant at his bidding. It is not so now. Why is it not so? Simply because all the truths that the profession *once* mastered, are now *generally* understood. What was once nearly the *extent* of professional knowledge in medicine, is now concentrated, popularized and comprehended by the common people.—And is not the practice improving? Is there any loss on account of this increasing intelligence?

Now, we witness woman mastering the profession, with all of its improvements, who can turn, diffuse and popularize its truths. They thus become, *indeed*, physicians, who improve and elevate their sex

and society. Are there any backward tendencies in this? What kind of knowledge is better calculated to stay the abuses of murderous fashion? What kind of education promises equally as much for her physical improvement, and consequently, for the same improvement of coming generations?

We require cultivated minds in every vocation. If, in the scale of humanity she is man's equal, let her bear him company in the acquisition and application of anatomy, physiology and hygiene, and if she chooses, in pathology, therapeutics and the practice of medicine also. It is not to be supposed, that the minds of American women can be dwarfed down to simply a few embellishments and to the sphere of fashion. She feels irresistable impulses to do good, to improve not only her personal appearance and lend art to her charms, but to make herself practically *better*. Young America is the birth-place of Reforms, as well as the cradle of Liberty, and when her sons are imbued enthusiastically with the true spirit of improvement, of overturning false ideas and false practices, her daughters too, catch the spirit and enthusiasm, and hold no *practical* work too gross for their undertaking. The very fact that she has the early mental and physical culture of the child, and is best adapted as its instructor in its youth, is an argument, that she should make anatomy and physiology her study, that she may better understand their proper hygienic management, and even their later physical culture.

When we reflect upon the many painful and dangerous maladies to which children, at the time and shortly after the various functions of independant life commence their circle of action, are liable, and by which so large a proportion are annually destroyed, and when we consider that many are at first slight, and might be avoided, but which, when mismanaged, increase their infirmatics and diseases, woman can hardly be said to fulfil *all* her duties, when she neglects to store her mind, and thus prepare her for these responsibilities. A vast amount of disease and suffering occur in early life, and is unquestionably produced by errors which might be easily avoided, errors with respect to diet, clothing, exercise, imprudent exposures and a general neglect of a proper physical training. Happiness and usefulness depend on health. Everything desirable depends on it, and hence the means to secure it, are not of secondary importance.

Perhaps it may be said, that the study of Anatomy and Physiology in our common and higher schools is sufficient. We regard it only as the initial step to a more thorough and common understanding of these subjects. Those who study them superficially, and are taught by teachers who are only partially quaified to instruct, will realize the defects in their knowledge, and endeavor to improve in after life, while public sentiment demands something more. The necessity for greater advantages and for more thorough knowledge will then be appreciated.

As physician, there are many diseases peculiar to her sex, especially proper for her to treat. And diseases which are not peculiar to woman, may be managed equally well and with as great propriety.—

Besides, it would seem, that those affections which are incident to infancy and childhood, would also very naturally come within her ready apprehension, and enlist her sympathies and skill.

If the question should be submitted, what studies are of paramount importance to this, those which promise greater practical results, and the reply be "The Arts," it would excite the smile, not because those are not properly hers, but because it involves the idea of their greater importance. Then her sphere of studies and duties is not so narrow, her usefulness not so limited, her influence not of so little importance. Feed her understanding with truths whose import improve both the mental and physical nature of herself and offspring, and she is better fitted for all the duties of life, more respected, and more honored, and when respected and honored most, we may expect to see a greater amount of improvement, social order and progress in everything.

Concentrated Remedies.

BY H. S. FIRTH, M. D.

Messrs. Editors:—It must be quite apparent to every one interested in the progress of medicine, and particularly medical reformation, that the discovery and introduction into practice of the new concentrated remedies, is destined, sooner or later, to revolutionize to no limited extent, the medical world. Already, in fact, no physician who has used them for any length of time can possibly do without them. Their uniform strength, reliable action, and smallness of dose, invariably gratify alike the patient and physician.—Hence upon us, who believe in true Eclecticism, and are acquainted with its distinctive measures, rests a weighty responsibility. Not only in the matter of saving life in individual practice, but in the dissemination of those truths which we believe best calculated to secure the health and happiness of the human family, every Eclectic has an important mission to perform. There is no one so obscure but his experience may be worth something; and if every physician would carefully note down, and regularly report the results of his practice as far as concentrated remedies are concerned, there would be soon a mass of testimony that would establish their superiority as remedial agents. In daily intercourse with the profession, there is no lack of praise in their favor; how is it then that our Journals are so meager on this subject when they might abound with valuable information? Journals are designed for the enlightenment of the people, as well as the profession; for it is to the enlightened public that we have to look for encouragement and support in the reform movement. Once convince the masses of the righteousness of our principles, and our cause is established. Let there be a free interchange of professional thought and experience through the medium of our Journals, then let all effort be used to circulate the Journals freely among the people, and we will soon be recognized as *the Pro-*

fession. We have talent in our ranks, and justice on our side,—enterprise is all that is wanted to complete our triumph.

With the action of concentrated remedies I am more than satisfied; and in every instance where I have used them and explained their nature and design, they have been prefered before all other medicines.

For me to abandon their use now, would be virtually to lose the patronage of the best, and most intelligent of my patients. So rapidly are they rising in professional esteem, that with the most scientific appliances for their manufacture, it seems impossible to meet the demand ; and I do not think that I am too sanguine when I say that many years will not pass by, before they will be as necessary in the drug-stores generally, as rhubarb and magnesia. In view of the rapid improvement in treatment, every true Eclectic has good reason to be proud of his profession ; and if ever, medicine becomes a positive science, Eclectic research in vegetable chemistry will not be the least agency concerned in making it such.

I should like to call the attention of the profession to a compound for Bronchitis and throat affections, manufactured by Dr. Wm. Elmer, at the Eclectic Chemical Establishment in this city. The bases of this compound are, Prunine, Rhusine, and Hyoscyamine. It may, I think, when properly used, be called a specific more justly than any other medicine. A lady came to consult me in reference to a severe Bronchial affection of three years standing She had tested well the routine of Allopathic remedies, including Nitrate of Silver, without the least abatement in the symptoms. I gave her of the Bronchial Drops, one drachm, with orders to take three drops three times a day. In addition to which, I gave her the following:

R. Fluid Ext. Stillingia,
Ol Capsici, of each 20 drops.
Sac. Alba, 2 drachms.

Dose, one grain three times a day.

The above quantity completed a cure. Quite a number of inveterate and long standing cases have been cured within my knowledge by the compound mentioned. The Drops have also proved valuable in the obstinate bowel complaints of the season, in one drachm doses three times per day.

I will mention one case in favor of Caulophylline in obstetric practice. Was called to a lady threatened with miscarriage, at about the fourth month of pregnancy. I found the uterus dilated, and the head of the fœtus presenting about one inch in the upper strait. Being too far gone for preventive means, and the pains regular and quite strong, I concluded to let nature have her course. I waited two days, when the pains had abated, and the fœtus remained in the position in which I first found it. I then gave one grain of Caulophylline, and in one hour's time the fœtus was expelled. Other cases might be detailed ; and from inquiry and experience, I am led to the belief, that in obstretric practice the Caulophylline is superior to Macrotin, or Secale Cornutum.

New York, August 30th, 1852.

Influence of the Mind Upon the Body.

BY C. H. CLEAVELAND, M. D.

The vast and important subject of the immense influence the mind, may and does exert upon the physical part of the human organism, and of the reciprocal actions of the mind and the body, are just beginning to attract the attention which they deserve. Here is a field almost wholly unexplored, which is destined to yield fruits of almost incalculable value to the world; yet those who are acting as pioneers, in bringing this territory within the bounds of the world's knowledge, are almost universally looked upon as dreamers, if not actually wanting in sanity of mind.

It is not my purpose to occupy the pages of the Journal with a regular dissertation on this subject, or to discuss any *theory* that has been built up, or even to attempt to prove those deductions that have been drawn from observed phenomena, are legitimate and true, but rather, to present a few isolated facts for the consideration of its readers, to induce reflection and observation on their part, and in this I shall confine myself to but few facts and observations, and those not uncommon or strange.

It may not be improper to point out the difference between impressions derived from external objects, and those received through the mind, or the imagination. We *see* the stars, the fields, the trees and their flowers or fruits, when these objects are presented to the eye; and we also *hear* the thunder, the bleating of the sheep, or the hum of the insect tribes. The mind, however, is so impressed through the organs of sense, that in moments of retirement, quiet and solitude, all these impressions can be recalled, and the phenomena that had been previously observed, may again be brought to the mind, almost if not quite as vividly as when they made their direct impressions upon the organs of sense. This is the direct result of the *imagination*, and the entire system is acted upon by the images presented by the imagination in precisely the same manner it would be, if the immages were real, and the eye, or the ear was really impressed by the sights and the sound.

This faculty of recalling impressions is intimately connected with the nervous system, and is greatly modified by the condition of the same, whether it be in a state of health or disease, or whether it be dull or active; and as *all* the impressions of the whole of the organs of the body are derived through the nerves, it results that all the functions of those organs must be greatly modified and controlled by the state of the nervous system, at the time when the impressions were made.

But the interest of the subject is calling me away from fulfilling my original intention, and I will at once proceed to record the instances alluded to.

A Roman matron, whose son, it was reported, had been slain in battle, under Hannibal, was told that the report was erronious—that her son still lived. Immediately on hearing the joyful news, she ex-

pired. A man in the State of New Hampshire, in a time of intense party excitement, also suddenly expired, on learning that he had succeeded in being elected Town Clerk. A man who, in the night time, had passed a dangerous place in the road, without being aware of his danger, went the next day to look at it, and immediately fell down dead, at the thought of the peril of the previous night. Children have been known to die from fright, on being punished by confinement in a dark closet. The instances in which fright at imaginary evils had either resulted in death, or in severe mental and physical derangement, might be multiplied to an almost unlimited extent. Grief, at the real or supposed loss of friends or property, has destroyed the lives, or the peace of mind, and the health of body, of an immense host. Anger, is more intense and immediate in its results, and sometimes equally fatal with intense grief, but as it more frequently produces extreme activity in those laboring under its influence, it usually expends a great share of its force, and thus its victim escapes.

But passions and impressions elevating and exalting in their nature, may become as powerful in their influence upon the body, as those which depress. Courage, hope, patriotism, philanthropy, and all the noble passions and desires, have nerved up people to perform acts, and endure labor, that without the additional power derived therefrom, they would be utterly incapable of performing. As these are very common, it is not necessary to occupy space by their insertion.

When phenomena of this character, are to be observed almost daily, what shall be said of those physicians, who will not learn from these, not to rely on medicine alone for the cure of disease, but rather to rouse and cheer the *minds* of their patients as much as they consistently can,—using all the elevating and stimulating influences of the mind, in place of drugging the stomach of the sick?

Waterbury, Vt., Sept. 1852.

Some of the Illiberal Features of the Old School.

An Extract from a Paper read before the E. M. Society of the State of New York, at its last annual meeting.

BY L. C. DOLLEY, M. D.

During the past history of our country, the leading members of the medical profession have been ambitious to adopt, and follow rigorously the various theories, and the practice of their transatlantic brethren. As remarked by Dr. John Beck, before the Med. Society of the State of New York in 1850, "from the connection subsisting between the mother country and the colonies, as may naturally be presumed, the *same* doctrines prevailed in both, and the practice was essentially the same." That this was so, during our colonial history, before any schools had been organized in our country for the cultivation of medical science, and when those who took the guardianship

of the public health, were mostly emigrants from the old country, is not surprising.

This same disposition in the profession, to shut out from its sanction every remedial resource which has not emanated from the observation of foreign minds, has remained to a lamentable extent, even to the present day. Whenever a new theory in pathology has arisen in Europe, as the acrimoneous, alkaline, acid, morbidly thick or thin fluid pathology of Boerhave, it has been seized, and slavishly adopted by the Allopathic physicians of our own country. To give medicine with any other view than of thinning, or incrassating the blood, or altering its qualities according to the particular European theory in vogue, has been regarded *unscientific* and *empyrical*. When calomel in Europe, has been the remedy for pleurisy and rheumatism, when venesection and blisters have been the measures of treatment for consumption and asthma, and calomel and opium for cholera and dysentery; each, by the mass of physicians in our own country, has been adopted as the *sina qua non* for the same; and all other measures of more humble origin, have been scorned and condemned.

This servile allegiance of the medical profession to the authority of their transatlantic brethren, has, unquestionably, been the most fruitful source of quackery in our own country. The exotic practice has ever been so unsuited to the peculiarities of this country, the necessities of our people, and of diseased human nature everywhere, that the public have found it impossible to retain confidence in it, and have in their days of suffering and dying, honestly resorted to every alternative, every resource, however humble and unpopular, that promised hope and health.

Dr. Douglas, who wrote in 1753, in speaking of the character of the medical profession in the Colonies in that period, says: "In general, the physical practice in our Colonies is perniciously bad; that excepting in surgery, and some very acute cases, it is better to let nature, under a proper regimen, take her course, than to trust to the honesty and sagacity of the practitioner. Our American practitioners are so *rash* and *officious*, the saying in the Apocrypha may with much propriety be applied to them: 'He that sinneth before his Maker, let him fall into the hands of the physician!' - Frequently, there is more danger from the physician than from the distemper.— In the most trifling cases they use a routine of practice. When I first arrived in New England, I asked a most noted facetions practitioner, what was their general method of practice; he told me their practice was very uniform, *bleeding*, *vomiting*, *blistering*, *purging*, *anodynes*, *&c*.; if the illness continued, there was *repetendi*, and finally *murderandi*; nature was never to be consulted or *allowed to have any concern* in the affair. What Sydenham well observes, is the case with the practitioners: Æger minia medici diligentia ad plures migret."

Is it surprising that Smith, who wrote in 1758, said? "Few physicians among us are eminent for their skill. Quacks abound like locusts in Egypt, and too many have arrived to a full practice and

profitable subsistance." If the public were so dissatisfied in these early times with the imported falsely-styled scientific practice, is it to be wondered at, that the suffering public, up to the present time, throughout the length and bredth of our land, have continued to "cry aloud and spare not," against precisely the same evils, the same "routine practice," the same bleeding, blistering, mercury, antimony, and arsenic, that the profession arbitrarily forced upon them one whole century ago? The evils arising from many destructive and uncertain measures of treatment, in prevalent use, has made more general the fear, and more and more universal the dissatisfaction with our health-loving and intelligent masses. They have yearly, and daily, cried louder and more earnestly against the oppressive and galling chains of medical despotism. The demand for medical emancipation and reformation, has been one of the most general and necessitous demands of the public mind, during the whole of the last century. To satisfy this general want of the age, several schools have been recently organized in our country, liberal in their phylosophy, democratic and reformatory in their principles. These institutions we believe, meet, to an eminent degree; the general want of our age, and participate largely in the spirit of independance which characterizes the civil and political institutions of our country. Among these institutions, it is unquestionably true, that the school in operation at this time in the city of Rochester, stands, in point of age and influence, and number of pupils in attendance, second to but one in existence.

SELECTIONS.

What Allopathy says of itself.

COMPILED BY J. EMERSON KENT, OF PAWTUCKET, R. I.

We cannot better close these remarks, than by permitting Allopathy to prove by *its own teachers, professors, and practioners*, that it is at once a *fallacious, unsatisfactory*, and *destructive* system.

Frank says—"Thousands are annually slaughtered in the quiet sick room. Governments should at once either banish medical men and proscribe their blundering art, or they should adopt some better means to protect the lives of the people than at present prevail, when they look far less after the practice of this dangerous profession, and the *murders* committed in it, than after the lowest trades."

The eminent Lugol, of Paris, in a lecture delivered before a class of students in 1841, and since published, says,—"Our want of success in the ordinary means of diagnosticating (understanding disease) proves that those means are inadequate; that we follow *an erroneous course* in our investigations, and that we must resort to some new modes if we desire to be more successful."

Dr. Evans says—"The medical practice of our day is at best a most uncertain and unsatisfactory system: it has neither philosohpy nor common sense to commend it to confidence."

The Dublin Medical Journal of 1842, says—"Assuredly the uncertain and most unsatisfactory art that we call medical science, *is no science at all*, but a jumble of inconsistent opinions, of conclusions hastily and often incorrectly drawn, of facts misunderstood or perverted, of comparisons without analogy, of hypotheses without reason, and of theories not only useless, but dangerous!"

The distinguished Rush, of Philadelphia, says—"We (speaking of the Regular practice) have done little more than to multiply diseases, and increase their fatality."

Professor Dixon, of New York, one of the magnates of the Allopaths, and the Editor of the Scalpel, says—"The whole system of practice requires careful re-modelling. We yet know but little of the true nature of disease." And he might have added, "still less of the most appropriate mode of treatment."

Thus writes Dr. James Johnson, of the Medico-Chirurgical Review, published in London:

"I declare, my conscieutious opinion, founded on long experience and reflection, that if there was not a single physician, surgeon, apothecary, man-midwife, chemist, druggist nor drug on the face of the earth, there would be less sickness, and less mortality than now prevail."

Dr. Bostock says—"Our actual information or knowledge of diseases, does not increase in proportion to our *experimental* practice: every dose of medicine given by Allopathy, is a blind experiment made upon the vitality of the patient."

Listen to the late Professor Gregory—"Gentlemen, ninety-nine out of every hundred medical facts, are *medical lies*, and medical doctrines are, for the most part, stark, staring nonsense."

The great Magendie says—"Let us no longer wonder at the lamentable want of success which marks our practice, when there is scarcely a sound physiological principle amongst us."

Hear Dr. Francis Coggswell, of Boston, June 6th, 1843:

"I wish not to detract from the exalted profession to which I may have the honor to belong, and which includes many of my warmest and most valued friends,—yet I cannot answer it to my conscience to withhold the acknowledgment of my firm belief, that *the Medical Profession (with its prevailing mode of practice) is productive of vastly more evil than good: and were it absolutely abolished, mankind would be infinitely the gainer.*

"How humiliating soever the confession, I must own that the most of my professional life has been worse than thrown away. I am well aware that my professional brethren will call me presumptive, for daring to question the infallibility of the Allopathic, or common practice, sanctioned by the opinions of seventeen centuries; but I cannot, must not, and will not shrink from known duty, come what may. I claim the privilege of thinking, speaking and acting for my-

self, and shall never allow any man or body of men to be my conscience-holder in medical, religious, or political matters. Since graduating, my experience has been such as to enable me te form a just estimate of the common mode of treatment and abundantly to satisfy me that it is utterly unsound in *root, trunk and branch.* It is emphatically a guessing system, and the chance of a patient's being *radically* cured by it, is about as great as the chance of drawing a prize from among a hundred blanks. It is to be regretted that society is so enslaved to fashion and custom, that nine in ten would sooner *die fashionably*, under the hand of a fashionable practitioner, than consult an unpopular one, even though he knew he would restore them to health. But then it is better to die respectably, and in good taste, than to live and be reproached by one's friends."

Thus testifies Dr. Jamieson, of Edinburgh:—"The present practice of medicine is a reproach to the name of science, while its professors give evidence of an almost total want of the true knowledge of the nature or proper treatment of disease. In most cases, mere symptoms receive the attention of the physician, and from this cause his remedies are seldom of advantage to the patient. I may go further, and say, that nine-times out of ten our *miscalled* remedies are absolutely injurious to our patients suffering under diseases of whose real character and cause we are most culpably ignorant."

Thus writes Dr. Ramage, (a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London.*) —"It cannot be denied that the present system of medicine is a burning reproach to its professors, if indeed a series of vague and uncertain incongruities deserve to be called by that name. How rarely do our medicines do good! How often do they make our patients really worse! I fearlessly assert that in most cases the sufferer would be safer without a physician than with one. I have seen enough of the *malpractice* of my professional brethren to warrant the strong language I employ, and I have but too often witnessed the failure of my own experiments in the regular practice; for experiments they must truly be called, where medicines are given in cases where neither the true nature of the disease or the mode of action of the remedy is understood."

Wakly, in the London Lancet of 1842, says—"How little do we know, (of disease,) compared with what we have yet to learn. Every day developes new views, teaching us that many of what we before thought immutable truths deserve only to be classed with baseless theories; yet, dazzled with the splendor of great names, we adhere to them. On these theories, which have usurped the place of truth, a system of *routine*, or *empirical* practice, has grown up, *vacillating*, *uncertain*, and often *pilotless*, in the treatment of disease."

Dr. Hall, in his work on *Loss of Blood*, page 76, says—"I may observe, that of the whole number of fatal cases in INFANCY, a great proportion occur from the inappropriate, or undue application of *exhausting remedies.*"

* A *Fellow* of the Royal College has attained the *highest medical honors* known to the British Schools.

Dr. Fuller, of Rhode Island, in a *prize* address, quotes from Dr. Armstrong—"Diseases have always been under the *same* influences, as the planets revolve by the *same* laws, whatever conjectures were formed of them in the lapse of ages. The opinions of men may vary, but the operations of nature are unchangeable." The inestimable discovery of the periodicity of all diseases, by Dr. Dickson of London, demonstrates the truth of this sagacious observation.

Dr. Abercrombie says—"We own our system defective, and the action of our remedies in the highest degree uncertain."

Dr. Mason Good, the most learned and accomplished Allopathic physician of modern times, whose "Study of Medicine" was published in New York, by the late Dr. Doane, as editor, under the supervision of Dr. J. W. Francis—which two latter gentlemen, it may be added, with Dr. Wm. Turner, formed the Board of Commissioners of Health of that city, a few years ago—observes:—"*The science of Medicine is a barbarous jargon, and the effects of our medicine on the human system are in the highest degree uncertain, except, indeed, that they have already destroyed more lives than war, pestilence, and famine, combined.*"

We might multiply such testimony as the foregoing to any extent, by quoting Dewees, Cox, Edwards, Williams, and a host of others, —but we have already produced sufficient witnesses to sustain the direct evidence of Dr. Coggswell, who declares that the Allopathic practice is "*utterly unsound in root, trunk and branch.*"

Such is the testimony of the *most eminent* teachers and practitioners of the Allopathic system; *where then is the safety of that system* as generally practiced by those whose knowledge is yet more limited, and who, like the mill-horse, treading one ceaseless circle, are circumscribed by the contracted circumference of the schools? "We speak as unto wise men; judge ye."—*Address to the Mayor of New York, by Dr. Wm. Turner, late Health Com.*

SAVE ME FROM MY FRIENDS.—A physician, giving an account of a case of neuralgia of the head, in a recent medical journal, presents the following rather startling account of his method of cure :

"I determined to adopt the same principles of practice in this case as I had done before, viz: to produce paralysis of the whole nervous system, and temporarily suspend the action of the heart and circulation, then restore the circulation again and the nervous energy, only keeping the nerves which were the seat of the disease in a state of paralysis by local applications over them, and by the internal use of such remedies as act on the nervous system generally."

Most persons, we think, would prefer to take their chance with a common neuralgia, than to try "paralysis," and a "stoppage of the circulation of the heart," by way of remedy. If by the chance looseness of any screw in his machinery, the practitioner should not succeed in bringing back his circulation, the case might become very serious.—*To-day.*

Cutaneous Absorption.

BY WM. A. ALCOTT.

The communication made by me to the medical profession, through your pages, something like a year ago, excited a good deal of attention at the time, and has elicited not a few private inquiries, both at the East and the West, since that time. Many an individual has asked me—Do you really believe Mr. Robinson's story? "I am compelled to believe it," is my usual reply. "Mr. R. is not the man to make any wilful misstatement, and Mrs. R.'s certificate confirms the facts." But how can it be? it is again asked. How could a man gain in weight daily half a pound, when his whole ingesta, solid and fluid, was only about half that amount—leaving the *egesta* out of the question? My reply to this question is, "I suppose it must be by cutaneous or pulmonary absorption."

It would be quite indecorous, in such cases as these, to go farther, and point gentlemen, who have a diploma in their pocket, to chapter and verse in confirmation of Mr. R.'s story—or at least sustaining its possibility—in our common works on physiology. And yet it may save me a little trouble, and do here and there a blockhead good (for unluckily such things have been known as blockheads in our profession,) to refer him to Carpenter's Physiology, at page 504. The following is verbatim:

"The quantity of water which may be imbibed from the vapor of the atmosphere, would exceed belief were not the facts on which the assertion rests beyond all question. Dr. Hill relates the case of a diabetic patient, who for five weeks passed twenty-four pounds of urine every twenty-four hours—his ingesta during the same period amounted to twenty-two pounds. At the commencement of the disease he weighed one hundred and forty-five pounds; and when he died twenty-seven pounds of loss had been sustained. The daily excess of the excretions over the ingesta could not have been less than four pounds, making one hundred and forty pounds for the thirty-five days during which the complaint lasted. If from this we deduct the amount of diminution which the weight of the body sustained during the time, we shall have one hundred and thirteen pounds to be accounted for, which can only have entered the body from the atmosphere.

"A case of ovarian dropsy has been recorded, in which it was observed that the patient, during eighteen days, drank six hundred and ninety-two ounces, or forty-three pints, of fluid, and that she discharged by urine and by paracentesis, one thousand two hundred and ninety-eight ounces, or ninety-one pints, which leaves a balance of six hundred and six ounces, or thirty-eight pints to be similarly accounted for." In this case, however, says Carpenter, something is to be allowed for the quantity of water contained in the solid food ingested.

"The following remarkable fact is mentioned by Dr. Watson in his Chemical Essays. A lad at Newmarket having been almost starved

in order that he might be reduced to a proper weight for riding a match, was weighed at 9, A. M., and then again at 10, A. M.; and was found to have gained nearly thirty ounces in weight in the course of this hour, though he had only drank half a glass of wine in the interim. A parallel instance was related to the author by the late Sir. G. Hill, then Governor of St. Vincent. A jockey had been for some time training for a race, in which that gentleman was much interested; and had been reduced to the proper weight. On the morning of the trial, being much oppressed with thirst, he took one cup of tea, and shortly afterwards his weight was found to have increased six pounds, so that he was incapacitated for riding. Nearly the whole of the increase in the former case, and at least three fourths of it in the latter, must be attributed to cutaneous absorption; which function was probably stimulated by the wine that was taken in the one case, and by the tea in the other.

Now it is easy to see that there is a wide difference between gaining four and a half pounds in a single day from the atmosphere, as in the case of the jockey, and gaining half a pound, in the case of S. Robinson. And it was as much for the sake of making some small addition to medical science that I caused the case to be recorded as for any other reason. I *am* a lover of facts, and a lover of science, as well as a deadly hater of empiricism and hollow pretension.

I mi ht also add, it was a good deal in the same spirit that I made my own experiments, many years ago, of abstaining from drink.—Never for a day, did I believe, with Dr. Lamb, that man is not a drinking animal. The fact of Dr. Lamb's abstinence and many other considerations, it is true, had weight with me. Besides, my simple habits and general obedience to the laws of health and life made the experiments more easy to me than to most men, and therefore as a lover of science* I felt an increased obligation to make them. I allude, of course, to total abstinence from all drink for nine months and nineteen days in 1838–9; for six months or more in 1840; and then, with a partial suspension of only one or two days, of about eight months more in 1840–1. All this while, too, my perspiration was free but not profuse, urinary excretion not scanty, and every other function well performed. Moreover, I gained a little weight during the first experiment.

West Newton, July 4th, 1852.

"Pennsylvania has the largest number of deaf and dumb in the United States. New York, the most insane, blind and idiotic."

Salve for Burns.—Take two parts of olive oil to one of laudanum, to be applied as soon as possible. It has long been used, and never known to fail in giving immediate relief, and heal without leaving a scar.

* My whole life, for the last twenty-five years, has been a life of experiments. Medical men are often charged with making experiments on others, but I have made many more on myself than on my patients. They *may* be useful to the world, if I should not be called away so suddenly as to leave them unrecorded.

On the Use of Glycerine in the Treatment of Certain Forms of Deafness.

BY THOMAS WAKLEY, ESQ., F. R. C. S.,
Surgeon of the Royal Free Hospital, London.

The class of cases to which I would draw attention in this report, are those of *cuticular* or *epithelial thickening* of the meatus, either *partial*, affecting the membrane of the tympanum, or *complete*, being continued over the entire auditory cul-de-sac. There is a greater or less degree of deafness, corresponding with the amount of thickening; cessation of secretion of cerumen; frequently tinnitus, or a "singing and hissing sensation" in the ears, and tickling irritation of the meatus. The causes are, constitutional predisposition, advanced age, chronic inflammation, long-continued discharge following eruptive fevers and the application of escharotics and irritants.—Amongst the latter, I would mention oily preparations, the globules of which adhere to the sides of the meatus or membrana tympani, and become rancid, thus producing a very frequent cause of inflammation. Upon examination of the affected ear, we find the meatus shining and inelastic, of a pearly whiteness, the membrana tympani either clouded or streaked, sometimes having small elevations upon it. The meatus is quite dry, the cerumenous glands being choked up by the epithelial growth.

The mode of application of the glycerine, when treating this state of the ear, is as follows:—The meatus is well cleansed with tepid water, and then dried by means of the forceps and cotton. Glycerine is now poured into the meatus, and a plug of gutta percha, softened in boiling water, made to fit the external opening; this takes the exact form of the ear, becomes hard, and effectually prevents either the entrance of atmospheric air or the exit of the glycerine. The ear should be examined daily and the same process repeated. The lining membrane can be examined with a blunt silver probe, passed gently through the speculum auris, to ascertain the effect of the glycerine upon the cuticular thickening. The meatus will gradually lose its shining pearly apearance, and softened pieces will fall off, and can be removed either by the forceps, or gentle syringing. The practitioner should never attempt to tear them away, but allow them to come away by the means just stated. The treatment occupies ordinarily from two to four weeks, and is generally without any pain or inconvenience of any kind to the patient, and the results, in some cases have been very gratifying. In the after treatment the patients are directed to moisten the auditory canal at least once a week with glycerine applied by means of a camel-hair brush; this will generally prevent a recurrence of the cuticular thickening.

The *modus operandi* is simple enough—the glycerine being kept continually in contact with the part, acts mechanically, either absorbing or penetrating the epithelial coating, and separating the individual particles.

With respect to the permanence of the relief—some cases always require the presence of glycerine as the best known substitute for

the natural secretion of the aural membrane. The frequent introduction of the glycerine tends to restore the external meatus to a healthy condition, and fit it for the healthy transmission of sound.

The mechanical power which glycerine possesses in separating this epithelial growth in some cases is very remarkable. I was consulted about two months since by a lady of rank, a patient of Sir James Clark, for deafness in both ears. In the right ear there was almost total deafness, from an enormous amount of epithelial thickening, which narrowed the calibre of the auditory canal, so that it would not receive the smallest-sized speculum. The depth of the *cul-de-sac* was also much less than normal, from the same cause. The lady was between seventy and eighty years of age, and told me that she had been deaf from her childhood in that ear; and there is but little reason to doubt that the deposit had been accumulating and hardening during nearly the whole of her life. The glycerine was used in the manner already described, and its action was very beautifully illustrated. A short time since, a large mass of the softened growth was removed without any inconvenience to the patient,—a larger quantity, perhaps, than I had ever before separated from the ear.—The calibre and depth of the ear will therefore be increased considerably when the swelling of the lining membrane shall have subsided from its having been saturated with glycerine; this will gradually exude and come away. This case is still under treatment, and I shall mention it again at a future period, when the effects of the treatment upon the hearing can be safely declared.

I may mention another case in the family of a nobleman, patients of Sir B. Brodie, where very considerable thickening existed over the entire aural *cul-de-sac*, but which readily yielded to the softening action of the glycerine, although it had previously resisted the use of caustics and various applications of the essential oils, &c., ordinarily employed.

In this report, I feel it absolutely necessary to caution the profession against the use of the impure glycerine in the market. Several samples have been forwarded to me by both surgeons and patients. Upon careful examination of the liquids, I found only one sample to consist of pure glycerine; the others had a low specific gravity, or contained a considerable quantity of lead or of rancid oil, having been manufactured from putrid fat.

Thus it is easy to account for failures in many cases that have been reported; and I would strongly urge surgeons who are treating certain forms of deafness with glycerine to test it themselves, and thus be certain of the purity of their agent. Pure glycerine should be a white, syrupy fluid, inodorous, specific gravity not less than 1-32, quite free from oily globules and oxide of lead. The latter may be detected by passing through it a current of sulphuretted hydrogen, which will easily blacken it. Any fatty matter may be discovered by mixing it with water: the disagreeable smell will at once prove that it has been manufactured from putrid fat.

In conclusion, it may be said, that impure glycerine being so easy of detection, it is desirable that its utility as an agent in the treatment of deafness may not henceforth suffer from the employment of an article that has no nearer affinity to clycerine than the name.—*London Lancet.*

New Views Concerning the Nature and Cause of Tubercular Deposits.

BY MATHEW TROY, M. D., OF NORTH CAROLINA.

We regret that we have space only for the more important portions of Dr. Troy's highly interesting Essay. The theories of Andral and Carswell, which consider tuberculous deposites as the effete matter resulting from the physiological changes throughout the system, or a secretion *sui generis;* and the theory of Williams, which refers such to a degraded condition of the nutritive material, are first severally analyzed, and their imperfections made apparent.— We may say this theory of the nature of these deposits, and the indications and measures of treatment suggested thereby, are fully in harmony with our own views.—EDS.

I consider tubercle to be the solid matter of the cutaneous excretion, especially of the sebaceous follicles. This secretion not being expelled by the natural emunctories, is retained in the blood until, in the attempt to eliminate it through an unnatural channel, it is deposited in some other excretory organ, where its fluid matter being absorbed, it becomes a tubercle.

It will be first necessary to show that the secretion of the skin is of sufficient importance to produce this effect when retained.

"It appears," says Dr. Carpenter, "that at least one hundred grains of effete azotized matter are daily thrown off from the skin . . . . When the exhalation of the skin is completely checked by the application of an impermeable varnish the effect is not, as might be anticipated, an elevation of the temperature of the body; on the contrary, it is lowered, in consequence, it would appear, of the interruption of the aeration of the blood through the skin, which is a function of such importance in the lower animals, and of no trifling account in man. And in a short time a fatal result ensues."—*Elements of Physiology.*

The amount of the cutaneous respiration has never been precisely determined, but it will hardly be doubted, that Dr. Carpenter has overrated its importance, when he considers that death takes place from its interruption. Even one whole lung may be rendered impervious, and still life may be preserved; and the fact which settles the question entirely, is, that the body may be immersed in water containing but little air, or even in water from which all the air had been expelled by boiling, and no appreciable inconvenience results, notwithstanding the "aeration of the blood through the skin" is suspended. It is singular that such an every-day experiment should have escaped so acute an observer as Dr. Carpenter.

It is plain, then, that death takes place in these cases, from the retention in the blood of the excrementitious matter ordinarily thrown off by the skin.

Of the amount of the *sebaceous* secretion alone, we can only conjecture, as very little light can be thrown upon it by the ordinary experiments for determining the quantity of the cutaneous secretion. It is not volatile, like the perspiration; it accumulates, and mixes itself with the epidermis; and the diminution of the weight of the body would no more show its amount, than it would that of the urinary secretion still retained in the bladder. But we are in possession of sufficient facts to show that it is very considerable. Any one who has been troubled with a dry, harsh state of the skin of the hands, and has attempted to relieve this by the rubbing on of any oily matter, must have been surprised at the quantity which may be made to penetrate the skin and disappear, before the natural state is restored. But the sebaceous secretion keeps the skin of the whole body constantly in this state. Those, also, who have "dry" hair naturally, and keep it, by the application of oily matter, in the state natural to others, will be able to judge of the quantity requisite to effect this object. When we consider the vast number of the glandulæ of the surface by which the sebaceous matter is eliminated, we shall not doubt their capacity to furnish all that is required, either for the good or bad effects ascribed to it.

The mucous membrane lining the bronchial apparatus and the alimentary canal, is but the inversion of the external tegument of the body, which it resembles in structure, and, to a great extent, in function; so nearly, that in the lowest animals there is no difference whatever between them, except the accident of position. This membrane is lined throughout its extent inwardly as well as outwardly, by numbers of minute glandulæ; those on the external surface being estimated, by Mr. Erasmus Wilson, at not less than seven milions in number. The action of all these glandulæ is depuratory or excretory. The secretion of none of them is destined to be reabsorbed, nor can it be retained in the blood without injury to the system.

No fact in physiology is better ascertained than that when the secretion of any organ, especially an excretory organ, is retained in the blood, an effort is made by some other organ, usually the one most nearly allied to it in function, to eliminate it (*Carpenter's Human Physiology*, p. 608).

Now, if the function of the skin is not properly performed, it is obvious that the mucous membranes will be the first to suffer; that is, if they do not perfectly succeed in supplying. by a vicarious or augmented natural action, the depuration ordinarily effected by the suspended function of the skin. It is from the overwhelming congestion with which they are effected, in the attempt to eliminate the secretion of the skin, that death takes place when the secretion of that organ is completely suspended. as by a varnish, for instance.

Is the function of the skin badly performed in phthisis? Formerly a pearly white skin was considered characteristic of the disease, or rather of the tubercular diathesis. But it is now said that too much

stress was laid upon this peculiarity, as the disease very frequently attacks those who do not possess it. But when we look upon the skin as a *gland*, as a great depuratory organ, the retention of the secretion of which in the blood causes death in a few hours, it is hard to conceive that too much attention can be paid to its peculiarities in any disease. I believe all writers still recognize *a peculiarity*, a cognizable anatomical difference of structure from the healthy skin. It seems to be this, that the skin is harsh and dry. Let its texture be fine and white, or coarse and dark, it is uniformly dry and inelastic. It is easily washed clean ; dirt does not closely adhere to it. In a word, the *sebaceous secretion is deficient.* I cannot do better than give the description of this peculiarity in the words of Sir James Clark :—

"The aspect of the countenance generally affords decisive indications of the presence of the affection; in early childhood it has a pale, pasty appearance. If the complexion be dark, the color of the skin is generally sallow; if fair, it has an unnatural white appearance, *resembling blanched wax* rather than healthy integument. The cutaneous functions are rarely in a healthy state ; the skin is either pale, soft, and flaccid, or dry and harsh, and frequently affected with eruptions. Its function of secretion is, in tuberculous subjects, always more or less deranged."—*Cyc. of Pract. Med.*, art. CONSUMPTION.

If, upon examination after death from any disease, the liver, lining membrane of the alimentary canal, or kidneys were found in a state different from the healthy standard, this state would be considered as constituting a prominent feature in the pathology of the disease. Even if there was nothing in those who inherit the diathesis indicative of a deficient development of the glandulæ of the skin, the causes which produce the disease are sufficient of themselves to point out its true nature. Everything which depresses the action of the skin tends to the production of tubercles. Everything which exalts its function acts as a preventive.

"Decidedly the strongest of the predisposing causes," says Dr. Wood, "is inheritance;" [congenital malformation of the secretory apparatus of the skin.] "Next perhaps in the degree of influence is cold. Allusion is not here made to the vicissitudes of weather which so frequently occasion attacks of inflammation. Cold may act in this way as an exciting cause; but its most pernicious agency is probably connected with its long-continued application. * * * This fact has been strongly exemplified within my own observation."—*Practice of Medicine*, vol. ii. pp. 104–5.

Could anything be stronger evidence in favor of the idea that the retained secretion of the skin is the cause of tubercular deposites? Is not this as nearly as possible reducing the condition of the subject to that of those who inherit the fatal peculiarity from their parents? All diseases attended by a great disturbance of the function of the skin are notoriously apt to be followed by phthisis. The exanthemata—small pox, scarlatina, and more especially measles—fevers in which there is much dryness or constriction of the skin—and diabetes, where this reaches the greatest extent, are extremely liable to be followed by consumption.

The evidence deduced from the juvantia is not less strong. The influence of a warm, dry climate is too well known to require it to be dwelt upon. And its influence in developing the glandulæ of the skin, where they are deficient congenitally and in stimulating them where they are depressed or torpid, is equally well known. (See *Carpenter's Elements of Physiology.*) How can a warm climate affect the fibrin of the blood? The hygienic means next in importance, if not superior to the last, is vigorous exercise in the open air:

"Vigorous exercise and free exposure to the air are by far the most efficient remedies in pulmonary consumption. It is not, however, that kind of exercise usually prescribed for invalids—an occasional walk or ride in pleasant weather and strict confinement in the intervals—from which much good is to be expected. Daily and long-continued riding on horseback or in carriages over rough roads is perhaps the best mode of exercise; but where this cannot be commanded, unremitting exertion of almost any kind in the open air amounting even to labor will be found highly beneficial."—Dr. Parrish—quoted by Wood, *Practice of Medicine*, vol. ii. p. 111.

"They are most fortunate," says Dr. Wood, "who are so situated as to be compelled to exert themselves. It has often been observed that consumptive patients entering the military service have entirely surmounted the disease.

"Dr. Guy found that in the close workshops of a printing establishment, the compositors, whose employment requires no exertion, fall victims to phthisis in the proportion of 44 to 31½ per cent. of the pressmen, who, while breathing the same air, use active bodily exertion. Similar exercise in pure air would have much more salutary effects, the deaths from the same cause in out-door laborers not exceeding 24 per cent.—*William's Prin. of Med.*, p. 53.

Can the efficiency of active exercise in the open air be explained in any other way than by its powerfully stimulating effect upon the glandulæ of the skin?

Other means having the same effect are equally lauded:—

"No remedies of this class have appeared to be so generally useful as counter-irritants of the milder class—*rubefacients extensively* and regularly applied by friction over a large surface of the body."—*William's Princ. of Med.*, p. 310.

Does not the difference in the complexion of men and women fully explain the greater liability of the latter to consumption? It is interesting to notice the connection between the habits of the pig—his wallowing in the mire and choking up the pores of the skin, and his great liability to scrofula, to which he has given the name.

Natives of a cold country going into a warm one suffer less from consumption than the natives of the latter; and natives of a warm climate going to a cold one suffer far more. This is true of other animals as well as man. The action of the skin is exalted in the one above its natural standard, and depressed below it in the other.

Is not the thinness of the *alæ nasi*, formerly considered one of the characteristic symptoms of the disease, owing entirely to the want of development of the sebaceous follicles usually so abundant in that situation?

But as to the nature of tubercle itself. Tubercle is evidently a foreign matter in the blood. Even if it is "degraded lymph," it is a foreign matter none the less; for dead or dying fibrin has no place

in the blood. Besides, all its habits, so to speak, so nearly resemble those of an effete matter retained in the blood, that it seems only to have been the difficulty of telling how it came there, that has prevented *all* from considering it such. It is perfectly evident that it has its origin in the system itself, for it is found under circumstances (as in the fœtus) where its introduction from without is scarcely possible. And whenever the diathesis is acquired, it is through the agency of depressing causes acting upon the general system.

If there has been raised, by the facts I have just mentioned, a presumption in favor of the retained secretion of the skin being the cause of tubercular deposits, this presumption will not be lessened by an examination of the deposits themselves, nor of the rules which seem to govern their distribution.

The sebaceous secretion of the skin has not been analyzed with sufficient accuracy to determine its precise nature: "It is oil, but not oil alone;" and as little is known of the nature of the solid constituents of the other secretions of the skin. It is, therefore, impossible to demonstrate chemically their identity with tuberculous matter.—But enough is known to show a very strong probability of this identity.

Tubercle consists for the most part of minute granules, which either consist of, or are very easily converted into, fatty matter.

* * * * * * * * * * *

The reason why the lungs are oftenest the seat of this deposite is very obvious. It may be that the closer analogy between the skin and lungs, than between the skin and any other organ, causes a greater quantity of the secretion to be directed to the bronchial membrane than to any other. But the anatomical structure of the lungs is fully sufficient to account for the frequency of the deposit in them.—From all other mucous surfaces, any effused matter would find a ready outlet, by the force of gravity alone, or gravity aided by peristaltic action; but here, gravity, which is the only force acting, unless cough be excited, causes the effused fluid to descend to the air-cells, where it accumulates; its watery parts being absorbed almost as soon as it reaches the cells, we have a tubercle. Here it grows by attracting its like from the blood, as Dr. Williams has well shown. (*Principles of Medicine.*)

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There is no one of the mucous surfaces which may not excrete tubercular matter. The frequency with which discharges take place from the eyes and ears of scrofulous children is no doubt owing to the elimination by the membranes lining these parts of tuberculous matter. This discharge only requires to have its watery, or, to speak more properly, its *absorbable** parts removed to constitute genuine tubercle.

Andral relates a case in which it is certain that this matter was secreted from the membrane lining the prepuce, in a man having phimosis.

* I mean by the *veins*; the entire matter may be absorbed by the lymphatics.

Any disease of one of the mucous surfaces, as inflammation, by diminishing or suspending its excretory power, will throw an additional burden upon the portion which remains sound, besides leading to a deposit in the inflamed part, in consequence of the absorption of the liquid portion during the stagnation of the blood which takes place.

Consumption of the lungs frequently does not manifest itself, in constitutions in which there is an evident predisposition to it, until after an attack of this description.

"We have often seen cases of pulmonary phthisis commence during convalescence from gastro-enteritis. Before the attack of the intestinal inflammation, the patients had no cough, nor was there any symptom to make one apprehend in them the existence of a pulmonary affection."—*Andral's Medical Clinic*, vol. ii. p. 262.

Inflammation of the lungs themselves is still more apt to be followed by a deposit of tubercular matter than inflammation of any other organ. It acts both by diminishing the excreting power of their mucous membrane, and by inducing a stagnation of the blood, by which the absorption of its watery parts is facilitated. It is in this latter way that the deposit is so often left among false membranes and the other products of inflammation. A deposit having once formed in the lungs, it is easy to see how much more difficult it would be to get rid of it than if it had occurred in the parietes of the alimentary canal, or in any part of the urinary apparatus, excepting perhaps in the cortical structure of the kidney.

In all inflammatory diseases, the calls upon the mucous membranes are greatly increased by the dryness, harshness, and constriction of the skin, denoting partial suppression of its function. This is the case also in fevers, and still more so in the exanthemata, all of which hasten the progress or determine the development of tubercles. The peculiar ill effects of measles is explained by its not only involving the skin, but also the bronchial and alimentary mucous membranes. It is doubtful if any disease affects an equal extent of dermoid tissue, and no one certainly is so apt to be followed, in the predisposed, by phthisis.

The lymphatic glands are said by Louis to be only second to the lungs in the frequency with which they are involved in tubercular disease. I do not believe, however, that they are ever attacked primarily, or, if so, only in those extremely rare cases where the matter abounds in the blood to such an extent that it may be deposited in any tissue, like the coloring matter of bile in jaundice. Their secondary implication is very easily accounted for; inflammation taking place in the membrane from which the effusion is taking place, it is arrested and absorbed by the lymphatic vessels, and carried to the nearest gland, where it is retained like any other foreign matter introduced into these vessels.

In the lungs, owing to their anatomical structure, the effused matter is presented in a condition favorable for absorption without the agency of inflammation. Hence the frequency with which the bronchial glands are affected with tuberculosis. In some rare cases,

all the effused matter is taken up, and the glands alone are found diseased, the lungs being perfectly healthy. (*Andral and Carswell.*)

But though inflammation does not seem to be necessary to induce tuberculosis of the bronchial glands, they are nevertheless much more certainly affected when it does occur. Inflammation seems to increase the activity of the lymphatic system in a remarkable degree.

The mesenteric glands are, I believe, never the seat of tuberculosis excepting in the course of enteric inflammation. This latter may, however, be very slight, and leave no trace of its existence in the dead body, though usually indications of its presence may be detected.

The frequency with which the lymphatic glands of the neck are affected is owing, I believe, to their being the only superficial ones (except those of the groin) whose vessels arise from the surface of mucous membranes.

Inflammation of the gums from teething, a carious tooth, or from any other cause, eruptions around the mouth from gastric irritation, or any inflammation of the conjunctiva or external meatus of the ear, may give rise to absorption of tubercular matter by the lymphatic vessels which are so plentifully distributed upon these parts. The inflammation of a single Meibomian gland will often cause the tumefaction of the glands situated on the side of the neck.

After a deposit has taken place in a gland, there is no need to suppose that it can increase only by the absorption of new matter. As in other situations, tubercle may here attract its own material from the blood, and continue to enlarge, even though the membrane, from which it was originally absorbed, may have resumed its healthy action, or even after it has been completely destroyed, as in the case from Andral, referred to above, where the effusion was upon the prepuce.

This appears to me much more simple than the explanation usually given, that inflammation is excited in a gland, and assumes the tubercular character from the peculiarity of the diathesis.

When suppuration takes place in a scrofulous gland, and it discharges its contents externally, it forms a ready outlet for more of the excretion; its being constantly poured out by the pyogenic membrane which lines the fistulæ which penetrate the gland prevents the occurrence of the healing process. Tubercular affections of the lymphatic glands are much more common in children than in adults, in consequence of the greater activity of their lymphatic systems, or perhaps from the greater frequency with which their mucous membranes are inflamed. There are cases where the matter of tubercle is effused upon other tissues than the mucous, but always in those in which pus or other morbid products are usually deposited, as the brain, intermuscular cellular tissue, &c. These cases only go to prove that tubercle is a foreign matter deposited from the blood, but throw no light on its nature.

I think I have shown that the nature and importance of the secretion of the skin are sufficient to give rise by its deficiency of suspension to the accumulation of tuberculous matter in the blood; that in those individuals in whom consumption is hereditary, there is often

a congenital deficiency of the sebaceous follicles; that the disease can at any time be produced or aggravated by causes which depress their action; and prevented or relieved by causes which exalt it; that the only well-ascertained product of the secretory action of these folicles is found in large amount in tubercle; and that it is deposited in precisely such situations as we would be led to suppose, upon general principles of physiology, that the retained secretions of the skin would be.

This theory has at least the merit of being consistent with all the phenomena of the disease; of explaining the action of the causes which produce it upon established physiological principles; of explaining its hereditary transmission by the same law which causes children to resemble their parents; of redeeming our practice from empiricism, and making it rational, and most important of all, of *explaining* the efficiency of hygienic means, and thus impressing the necessity of them more effectually than any amount of mere recommendation could do, even though this were founded upon the largest experience. It differs from the views of Andral and Carswell, by showing the nature and source of the "peculiar secretion," of which they speak; and seems, upon the whole, far more simple and definite than any other yet advanced.—*Am. Jour. of Med. Science.*

Whiteville, Columbus Co., North Carolina, March, 1852.

THE CUCUMBER.—In regard to this vegetable, which, at the present season, forms, with our citizens, so prominent a dish at almost every meal, Mr. Abernethy, the celebrated surgeon, observes, "peel it, slice it down into pieces, put vinegar and pepper to it, and then—throw it away." And this, probably, is the very best advice that can be given in reference to the manner of using it. Almost entirely devoid of any alimentary principle, the only possible motive that can be assigned for eating the cucumber, is merely the gratification of the palate—to the nourishment of the body it is totally unadapted.

The principal mischief produced by the use of this fruit, and which has caused it to be ranked among the most unwholsome articles served at our tables, arises, independent of an acrid principle which it is supposed to contain, from its indigestibility; in other words, its insolubility in the stomach. In consequence of this, it is retained in the latter organ for a long time, producing more or less uneasiness in every instance; and in the dyspeptic, the gouty, and those of a nervous and feeble constitution, giving rise to violent pains, cramps, and other severe affections.

By an individual in full health, and engaged constantly in active out-door exercise, but little inconvenience would probably be experienced from the use of the cucumber, in any form. By all, however, under different circumstances, it is an article of diet which it would be well entirely to relinquish, whether in its simple state, or in the various modes of preparation by which its injurious effects have been attempted to be counteracted.—*Jour. of Health.*

Swine's Flesh.

Hog's lard, when fresh, is composed of stearine, margarine and oleine; but when rancid, it contains several poisonous acids, and a yellow coloring matter.

Pork contains more oleine, a fusible, oily matter, incápable of assimilation, than other varieties of this class of meats. According to Brande, pork contains 76 per cent. of water, 19 of albumen and fibrine, and 5 of gelatine. Total of nutritious matter, twenty-four parts in one hundred. We see, then, that the pork-eater not only takes a greater amount of this indigestible matter into his stomach, than those who do not feast on swine dainties; but he is much more liable to disease. The more particular reason why he is more liable to disease, will be elucidated in our next issue, under the head of poisons.

The use of animal food, though nutritious, and, under some circumstances, capable of sustaining human life, and in some forms of disease indispensable as an article of diet, yet we agree with Dr. Lambe, that its habitual use "is no more than a persistence in the gross customs of savage life, and evinces an insensibility to the progress of reason, and to the operations of intellectual improvement." We defy all hog-eaters, chemists or physiologists, to prove that swine's flesh is a healthy article of diet. We will go farther still, and challenge all theologians and doctors of divinity to prove that the Scripture sanctions its use as food.

If we assume that animal food generally is indispensable to the nourishment of the human body, we present our philosophy of this notion, with exceedingly weak points, from the fact that we must acknowledge Albumen to be the true starting point of all the animal tissue. Albuminous compounds are formed by vegetables only; the animal body has only the power of converting these compounds ready made into its own. It is clear, therefore, that animal food is merely second-handed, for the reason that animals are entirely dependent on vegetables for a supply of the materials out of which their blood is formed, and it is from that fluid that all the solids of the body are produced.

THE PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF PORK,

as an article of food, is a topic worthy of extended consideration.—History and facts exhibit this subject in no very enviable light. Since the days of Moses, no small portion of the human family have looked upon the swine as an impure animal, and entirely unfit for food. Its impurity consists, not merely in the common mode of rearing the domestic swine, with the most filthy offscouring from every thing foul and corrupt, which constantly distends his diseased carcase; but it consists in a disease, purely scrofulous in its character, which is inherent and peculiar to the hog, and is constantly being developed, especially in the pig-stye. How often does the farmer, or those engaged in the fatting of swine, on beholding their swelled appearance, imagine them quite ready for the slaughter, when at their

subsequent visit to the pen they find them dead! Now, all will agree that this pork is not fit for food. Why? Not because it is a dead mass, but because it died of disease. Now, suppose this swine had been butchered, the day previous to its death by disease, would not the pork have been called good? Could the eater of that meat have detected the disease by its taste? We think not. It is evident, therefore, that not only would the pork have been considered good, but in its assimilation the consumer would have partaken of the disease.

The name scrofula had its origin in the well known fact that it was a disease peculiar to the swine. The analysis of the blood of scrofulous subjects shows that it differs materially from that of healthy individuals. In the former there is an excess of serum, and a deficiency of albumen and fibrin. Hence the solids formed of this blood are feeble, lax, and incapable of resisting exposure, fatigue and disease. It is true, that for the most part scrofula is hereditary. Still, there are many well marked cases of the acquired disease, from the use of pork.

Dr. Marcy, speaking of the origin of scrofula, remarks, "Let him (the pork-eater) see in the slaughter house how often the internal organs and surfaces of the vile carcases will be studded with tuberculous formations, or scrofula, and then return to pork, 'like a dog to his vomit,' if he chooses."

A strong corroboration of our views is found in the fact that in all those countries where the swine is forbidden to be used as food, scrofula is almost unknown. The same law obtains with the Jews, who, abiding by the precepts of their religion, inhabit almost every climate and country, and are scarcely ever afflicted with scrofula.

It is absurd to argue that flesh contaminated with scrofulous miasm cannot communicate to the healthy body, after digestion, its morbid particles. The poison pervades every atom of the affected flesh, and no washing or digestion can destroy or banish the noxious quality. E.—*Jour. of Organic & Medical Chemistry.*

A physician took a young student to see a patient who was confined to his bed:—"Sir," said the physician to the sick man, "you have been imprudent, you have eaten oysters."

The patient admitted that he had. Returning home the student asked the Doctor how he discovered that the man had eaten oysters?

"Why," replied the Doctor, "I saw the shells under the bed."

A few days after, the student was sent to visit the same patient. He soon returned, however, saying that he had been kicked out of the house for telling the patient he had been imprudent—he had eaten horse flesh.

"*Horse flesh*, you young fool! What do you mean!" cried the Doctor.

"Because, sir, I saw a saddle and a pair of stirrups under the bed." [*Exch*

Case of Resuscitation.

DR. CARTWRIGHT'S LETTER TO MRS. WILLARD.

New Orleans, July 27, 1852.

DEAR MADAM: The thread of my communication of yesterday was broken off to give you time to look over the phenomena witnessed at an experiment performed on a crocodile at my office, on the 18th of June last. I now resume the thread of the narrative, which leads us back to the house of mourning, where, you remember, we left the dead child. The crape on the bell handle has been removed, groans and wailing are no longer heard within. The house is full of joy and gladness—seraphic music; no harmony of the opera can equal the music of the heart. Let us enter, and see what has transpired since we left it a few hours ago. But where is the child which had the cholera; the cholera followed by tetanus, and the tetanus by death? When Dr. Dowler was called to it, it had that species of tetanus called opisthotonos—drawn back like a hoop. The muscles of respiration could not perform their function, and the child died for the want of power to inhale and expel atmospheric air.

After the physicians had left the house and pronounced it dead, the father, oppressed with grief, and suffering all the poignant anguish of a parent, we can well imagine, began to ask himself if everything had been done, that could be done, to save his darling son, the apple of his eye. Something *may* have whispered to him in the negative. He had been ruminating very deeply and very lately on the subject of certain papers, published in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, giving an account of crocodiles having been brought to life, after having been dead and even cut to pieces, by awakening in the lungs a certain motive power, recently discovered, called hæmatokinetic. It is not too much to suppose that a new thought, suddenly transfixing prejudice, flashed its light to the soul, "*that the hæmatokinetic power, or something equivalent to it, heretofore unknown, must have some existence in nature, or such effects could not be produced upon dead crocodiles by the vision of the brain or a woman's dream.*" Such a thought, if it came, came not alone. It brought Hope—Hope, smiling and waving her golden hair, always ready to touch dull humanity with an ethereal spark of noble activity. That such a spark touched the distressed father, arousing him from the lethargy of grief, into quick, prompt, and decided action, is most evident from the circumstances which followed. Because, after the doctors had left, quick as thought he aroused from the stupor of woe into the full exercise of all his mental and bodily faculties, and instantly brought to bear, on the corpse of his son, the measures and means which had been so effectual in resusciating alligators. Success attended his efforts. His child came to life! But it did not live long. The pulse failed, the heart ceased to beat, and it died again. Air was a second time thrown into the lungs. The blood-moving power, located therein, was again awakened, again the heart began to flutter and to beat, and the blood to circulate, and again the child

came to life. A third time it died, and a third time it was brought to life by the same means, which were persisted in, until the muscles of respiration had regained their power, and the little boy was able to breathe without artificial assistance. He is now alive and well.—I saw him yesterday, and had him in my arms.

Little fellow, welcome! thrice welcome to this world again. Your help was needed; you came in good time. You should cease to wonder, Madam, that a mysterious power impelled you to announce a great physiological fact to the world, when you thus see a little child selected to defend it—to defend it against a renowned champion and logician, who had no sooner made, what was generally supposed, an unanswerable argument against it, than a little child refuted all he had said, and that child his own! It had not learned to articulate words; yet it made, on or near the 4th of July, 1852, an oration in defense of the truth you had announced, abounding in transcendent eloquence; consisting in action, action, action; one action following another in rapid succession, until, casting off the shadows of death, and putting on the radiant robes of life, the little orator, William Francis Ely, less than six months old, astonished, amazed, and filled with gladness the whole house and neighborhood, raising from the very depths of despair to the highest pinnacle of human felicity its most affectionate parents and kindred. But it stopped not at appeals to the feelings and passions—but went into a lucid explanation of the most profound physiological mysteries, which the greatest physiologists, from John Hunter to the present day, after the most protracted labor and research, have been unable satisfactorily to explain—viz., why the left ventricle ceases to act, and very soon the right ventricle also, after the lungs cease to play. The discovery of the hæmatokinetic or blood-moving power derived from the inspired air, the existence of which was so clearly proved by the young Ely in passing so often from death unto life, reveals the mystery.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL A. CARTWRIGHT, M. D.

To Mrs. Emma Willard, Troy, N. Y.

[*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*

ANTIDOTE FOR PHOSPHORUS.—The Northern Lancet contains an account of a new treatment for those who may be poisoned by phosphorus. As soon as a person has been poisoned by phosphorus taken in a solid state, an emetic should be given at once to throw it off the stomach, ere it has time to act. If it has been swallowed in a diluted form, the patient should drink large quantities of water in which decarbonized magnesia has been dissolved. If magnesia is not at hand, soda dissolved in the water, will answer about as well. It is very dangerous to swallow any portion of phosphorus, as it will burn the stomach. The above plans are old; the following is the new antidote: calcined magnesia, 2 grains; chlorine water, 8 grains; distilled water, 112 grains. This is administered in copious draughts.

Philosophy of Eating.

Use but two or three kinds of food, besides bread and butter, at a single meal, and never eat anything between meals. You should eat at regular hours, and but three times a day, with two intervals of not less than five hours each, nor more than six.

Cold water retards digestion, and so does any liquid, if much is taken during or soon after a meal; half a glass at a meal is enough. From an hour and a half after a meal, until within an hour before the next one, you may drink as much water as you desire: it is best, however, to drink but a swallow or two at a time, with an interval of half a minute or more; otherwise you may take more than nature requires before you know it, just as in eating fast.

If too much fluid is taken during meals it dilutes the gastric juice, thus weakening the power of digestion, and retaining the food longer in the stomach than is natural; it also causes acid stomach, heartburn, fullness and bad blood, producing, according to circumstances, a dryness, or scalding sensation in the throat, as do indigestions from other causes, whether from quality or quantity of food.

All errors as to diet arise from quantity or quality, and I propose one safe rule to each, applicable to all persons, and under all circumstances.

As to quality, the general rule is to eat that which you like best, and which you find by close observation and experience, is followed by no uncomfortable feeling about the head, hands, feet or stomach.

As to qnantity, take as much at one meal as will allow you to become decidedly hungry by the next meal; this can only be determined by consecutive observations, but remember, never swallow an atom of food unless you aré hungry; never force a particle of food on yourself.

The brute creation cannot be induced to eat or drink if slightly ill or excited, guided only by their poor blind instinct, and we who are as much higher than they, by the 'reason' that is within us, ought to feel ashamed to act less wisely, and yet nine-tenths of all our ailments, acute and chronic, enter here; and nine-tenths of them might be cured thus, if taken in reasonable time and if properly persevered in.

The finer all food is cut with a knife, before put into the mouth, the sooner and easier it is digested, on the same principle that a large piece of ice placed in a vessel in water will require a longer time to melt than if it were first broken into many small pieces.

The gastric juice dissolves solid food from without inwards, hence food, especially all kinds of meat should be cut in pieces not larger than a pea before it is taken in the mouth, taking in as many pieces at a time as is convenient. This precaution would not be needed, were persons to eat slowly and masticate their food properly; but our national habits are otherwise, nor is there much hope of a speedy change in this respect.

Chloride of Soda.

The chloride of soda is one of the best disinfectants, if not the very best, in the world. It is, however, especially adapted for disinfecting soiled clothes, or those which have been employed in rooms of sick persons, because it can be employed in the water for washing them. It can also be employed for washing the human body, and for this purpose it is extensively used as a toilet liquid. The way to make it is known to but very few, and it is therefore sold by our druggists at a very high price. It is generally labeled with the name of a French manufacturer, and sold as a French product; we have seen a dollar charged for a quart bottle of it, and fifty cents is a very common price. We will inform our readers how to make it for six cents the quart at the very utmost limit:—Take one pound of good chlorate of lime,* which can be bought at any of the druggists, (when it is damp it is a sign that it is not good, it should be perfectly dry), put this lime in a close vessel containing a gallon of cold rain water, and stir it well, taking care to break all the lumps; it should then be covered and left to settle all night, and the clear poured off next morning; the sediment may be thrown away. Then take and dissolve a pound of ihe common crystals of sodâ, in warm water, and pour this solution into the clear liquid, stirring all up well; it then becomes quite milky, when it should be covered up with a cloth to prevent the escape of the gas. In six hours the clear may be poured off, and bottled up tight for use; this is the chloride of soda, and it will be found to be as good as that for which people have to pay half a dollar for a quart. The soda precipitates the lime in the water, which falls as a very fine sediment; the clear liquor must be very carefully poured off, as the sediment is easily disturbed. Half a teaspoonful can be put into a wash basin along with the water, for a person to wash himself with; it makes the water fine and soft, and washes beautifully with any kind of soap.—*Scientific American.*

*Query: Chloride of Lime?—Eds.

HEART DISEASES.—The New Jersey Medical Reporter has an article on the Action of Whey Baths, either pure or in a state of mixture with sulphuretted water. It is translated from the French of Dr. Niepce, who relates several successful cases. A number of patients came to him for various diseases of the heart, and he observed that most of them, when immersed in the bath, had their pulse reduced in a remarkable manner. He has collected data from 217 invalids, who made use of the whey baths at his residence, in Allevard, France, during 1849–51. In 69 cases the pulsations were reduced to 34, in 93 cases to 38, in 31 cases to 42, in 24 cases to 45. It is to the lactic acid in the whey that he attributes the moderation in the circulation. The most numerous cases of disease of the heart were nervous palpitations. Here, then, in our country places, there is an opportunity of laboring to arrest that common disease, palpitation of the heart. It is more prevalent among females than males; the cure is a simple one, indeed, and is worthy of repeated experiments.

Animal Chemistry.

How seldom do we give a thought to the organization of the "house we live in," or the manner in which it is strengthened or undermined! We seem to think it can take care of itself exactly as well without our aid as with it, and better too, perhaps. We don't reflect that, after all, we are mere animal, chemical machines, and that various substances combined in the human stomach present the same phenomena that they would in the receivers of a chemist's laboratory. For example, we see it stated that without lime the secretion of milk fails; "the bones and teeth become soft or are arrested in their developement; without soda, no bile can be formed; without phosphorus and magnesia, the nervous tissues lose their energy, and the impaired condition of the brain is evinced by loss of memory, frightful headaches and impending paralysis.

Ghastly paleness, prostration, faintness, and coldness attend the lack of carbon; deprived of sulphur, the hair would rapidly cease to grow; and the absence of iron is marked by lividity, disordered digestion, passive dropsy, and other symptoms of an anæmic or chlorotic character. The food we receive daily furnishes the natural source of these elementary substances and serves, during health, to repair the waste of these matters through the skin, kidneys, and other excretories, consequent upon the voluntary and vegetative functions of the economy. Hence the equilibrium is preserved. Inordinate use of particular organs induces a disproportionate consumption of their substance, and hence of the elements from which this substance is formed. Excesses in watching, thought and muscular effort, for example, by overtaxing the brain and muscular fibre, render the tissues rapidly effete, and therefore cause an exaggerated demand for their peculiar *pabulum*, as phosphorus and iron.—*St. Louis Times.*

A NEW "BALM OF GILEAD."—Mrs. Credulous issues the following certificate through the Belknap Gazette, and though it appears to be an advertisement, we insert it without fee or reward, for the benefit of her numerous relatives throughout the country :—

I, Cordelia Credulous, have been for years suffering from universal debility, spine in the back, tapeworms, rheumatis, and a long standing rebellious complaint, making me desput costic betimes, and besides these I have not felt well myself; so it was not long afore I was brought very low, and my most impudent friends did not know me, and the regular faculties did not expect me to live from one end to another. After years of suffering and sorrow Aunt Dorothy Tripnose recommended as the last resort that I should try a few bottles of the Pictorial Accelerated Compound Extract of Gill-over-the-ground and the syrup of Ignoro and Huckleberries, and to be sartin to get that which had the proprietor on it, for none else was genuine. I have taken three bottles and am a new cretur, and I expect by the time I take six bottles more I shall get the spine out of my back entirely. I cheerfully recommend this medicine to all sick or well.

CORDELIA CREDULOUS.

The Skin.

A fruitful source of defective or morbid coloration of the skin, and of its disfiguration by boils and blotches, is from imperfect digestion. The deep suffusion of the cheek, after heating drinks, as wine, cordial, or spirits, and the eruption which at times follows almost immediately after eating shell and other kinds of fish, or crude fruits, are familiar examples of the influence of the stomach over the cutaneous surface. Whatever article then, of difficult digestion, whether it be solid or fluid, which is taken by the dyspeptic or those of weak nervous habits, will, by distressing and irritating the stomach, correspondingly affect the skin, and render it rough and discolored. Wo to the person who, ignorant of this order of succession, mistakes the eruptions on the skin for the chief or primary disease, and applies, accordingly, to it washes, ungeunts, pastes, or powders, which have the pretty term cosmetic prefixed to them. Aggravation of the first malady, either of the lungs or stomach—or disease of the brain, and convulsions, will be the consequence of this rashness —this belief in every lying nostrum vender and puffer, in opposition to the lessons of experience and sober judgment. Fresh air, active excercise out of doors, regular hours, plain light aliment, frequent ablution, a well regulated mind, and animated piety, are the best cosmetics; they give a charm superior to all the blandishments of art and tricks of fashion.

The state of the nervous system influences greatly the appearance of the skin. The bite of a viper, or other venomous reptile, which operates with such power on this system, promptly discolors the skin, producing a universal jaundice. Not less sudden, and even terrible, are the effects of the poison of intemperate passions, as of anger, hate, jealousy, envy, on the complexion. Paleness, followed by a distended and flushed face, ending in a sallow and even saffron hue, are some of the changes produced by these fits. Murat, the then King of Naples, after the retreat of the remnant of the French army into Poland, received a letter from his wife Caroline, whom he had left regent in his absense, detailing some governmental measures which he thought encroached on his prerogative. Such was the violence and suddenness of the effect of his jealousy as a king, that, by the time he had perused the letter, he was completely jaundiced, and his whole skin discolored.—*Jour. of Health.*

Collodion in Erysipelas.—Collodion has been used successfully for arresting erysipelas by Dr. West; he had used the nitrate of silver first, on a lady, and having found that it did no good, he shaved her head and applied a thick coating of collodion over it, and for an inch over the healthy surface. The burning ceased almost instantly, and the disease ceased to spread. He also applied it to a case of a child of eight years, and after three applications it recovered entirely.

New Mode of Reducing Strangulated Hernia.

BY DR. WISE.

The following are the particulars I promised to send you, regarding a new method of reducing strangulated hernia. While I had charge of an hospital in India, an elderly man was brought to it with a strangulated inguinal hernia. After in vain employing the usual means of reduction, I was preparing to liberate the gut with the knife, when a Mussulman gentleman suggested that the following method should be first tried, as he had seen it successful. As it appeared simple and effective, I at once proceeded to try it. The patient was placed upon a table, and a long sheet folded several times on itself, was carried round the lower part of the abdomen of the patient, was twisted on itself in front, and again on the sides, so as to enable an assistant, standing on each side of the patient, to hold the extremities of the sheet, and to pull them gently upwards, or towards the patient's head, while a third assistant held the feet steady, and the surgeon used the taxis.

As the gut immediately above the strangulated portion was superficial and distended with air and liquid, it was drawn upwards with considerable force from the hernial sac, which was assisted by the surgeon using the taxis; when the strangulated portion was immediately reduced.

This simple method may, in a very large proportion of cases, be employed with perfect safety and at an early period, before inflammation and thickening has complicated and increased so much the danger of the operation, which is thus rendered unnecessary.—*London Journ. Med.*

Itis much to be regretted, that mankind in general, while in the enjoyment of health, pay so little attention to the preservation of so inestimable a blessing. Nothing is more common than to see a miserable object, with a constitution broken down by his imprudence, and a prey to disease, bathing, walking, riding, and in a word, doing every thing to solicit a return of health,—yet, had his friends recommended these very things to him by way of preventing, the advice would, in all probability, have been treated with contempt, or at least with neglect. Such is the weakness and folly of mankind, and such the want of foresight, even in those who ought to be wiser than others.

That was a definite prescription which an old woman on Long Island gave to another, respecting the mode of ascertaining whether indigo is good or not.

"You see, Miss Hopkins, you must take the lumps, and pound 'em up, e'en most to a powder, and then sprinkle the powder on the top of a pan of water, and if the indigo is good it'll ither sink or swim, and I don't know which!"

Duties of Medical Men to themselves and their Profession.

Velpeau is incessantly pressed by practice, and yet he takes time to read everything, and in 1844 had already written and published more than 25000 pages. Roux is also constantly laboring in his profession. Eight years since, he had operated for cataract between 5,000 and 6,000 times; had performed staphylorraphy 105 times; suture of the perineum, 15 times; excision of elbow joint, 14 times, and other less rare operations in proportion. But he also finds time to read and study; and, besides other non-professional accomplishments, is thoroughly acquainted with, and can both speak and write, the English, Italian and Spanish languages. All this, though he is constantly suffering from chronic gastritis and rheumatism.

Drs. Chambers and Copland of London, are constantly overwhelmed with practice ; and yet the former has found time to fill with notes of his private cases, *sixty-seven quarto volumes*, of 400 pages each, besides numerous other quartos in the form of indices; and the latter has given in his Dictionary an evidence of universal reading and study, and herculean labor, which alone it might well have occupied a whole life to produce.

John Hunter is often spoken of as one of the greatest *geniuses* ever devoted to the advancement of medical science. But it was his incessant *labor* which secured the brilliant results he achieved, and not his natural endowments. For thirty years in succession he never rose after sunrise in summer or winter; and seldom lost a moment while awake. Almost all of the most important discoveries in our science have been made by men of the most persevering industry. Harvey devoted nearly twenty years to his work upon the Generation of Animals; and his immortal treatise on the Circulation of the Blood cost him twenty-six years to bring to maturity. Says Dr. Marshall Hall, the author of the most important discovery in Physiology of the present century, 'I have spent 25,000 hours in my investigation on the Diastaltic (or Reflex) Nervous System.' Dr. Robert Lee, for seven years in succession, rose at day-break the whole year round, and employed the time till eight o'clock in dissecting the nerves and ganglia of the uterus, alone; and his labors upon the ganglia and nerves of the heart, in which he made the most important anatomical discovery of the present century, were almost equally arduous.—*From Dr. Peaslee's Address to the New Hamp. Med. Soc.*

Choice of Occupation.

It is a very common error with parents, in determining upon the future occupation of their children, to fix upon a profession, or some sedentary employment, for those of weakly or delicate constitution; while to the robust and vigorous, is assigned a more active and laborious occupation, demanding considerable bodily exertion, and repeated exposure to the open air. As a general rule, the very opposite of this course should be pursued : the robust being the best able to bear up against the pernicious effects of that confinement and in-

activity, to which the enfeebled constitution will very speedily fall a prey; while the latter will be materially benefited by the very exertion and exposure to which it is supposed to be unadapted.

When we examine the individuals who compose the various trades and occupations, and find certain classes to present, very commonly, a pale, meagre, and sickly aspect, while others are replete with health, vigor, and strength; we are not to suppose that because the pursuits of the one demand but little, and those of the other considerable bodily strength, the first are best adapted to the weakly, and the latter to the strong: we are rather to ascribe this very difference in their appearance, to the influence their several occupations exert upon the health of the system.

Let the most healthy and vigorous individual exchange his laborious occupation in the open air, for one which requires confinement within doors, and but little exercise, and his florid complexion, well developed muscles, and uninterrupted health, will very speedily give place to paleness, more or less emaciation, and debility, and occasionally to actual disease of the stomach or lungs. On the other hand the reverse effects will be produced, by the sedentary, exchanging before it is too late, their confinement and inactivity, for some active employment in the open air. These are important considerations, an attention to which, in the choice of a profession, would be the means of saving not a little suffering,—in many instances of prolonging life.—*Jour. of Health.*

Is the Physician Authorized to Provoke Premature Artificial Abortion to Save the Mother?

The following, as we think, just conclusions, closes the report of M. Cazeaux on the subject :

1st. It is in consequence of a false interpretation that the laws, both human and divine, relative to abortion, have been applied to abortion practised with a conservative object.

2d. Let the laws punish crime ; but they cannot reach, without injustice, an act accomplished with the purest intentions.

3d. Placed in the desperate alternative of choosing between the life of her infant and her own, the female has, by the laws of nature, the right to decide against her offspring.

4th. In this case the Physician may, and should sacrifice the infant, for the safety of the mother.

5th. Provoked abortion being much less serious for the mother than embryotomy, performed at the full period of gestation, the accoucheur may and ought to give it the preference.

6th. Deformities, in which the pelvis may be found less than six centimetres and a half in its shortest diameter—hemorrhages which nothing can check—tumors either in the hard or soft parts, which cannot be removed—are the only indications which can call for provoked abortion.

7th. The physician should never decide upon a step of this serious nature without the previous advice of several enlightened medical men.—*Jour. des Connais. Med. Chir., April,* 1852.

EDITORIAL.

Union of the Eclectic Medical Colleges of New-York and Massachusetts.

The desire has long been felt, and plainly expressed, by a large portion of the New School physicians of this State, and of the neighboring States interested in medical movements here, that a union should be effected between the separate, and to some extent opposing interests of the two Medical Schools existing within our borders. It is everywhere conceded that the divisions for some time past created among medical practitioners, who are in reality brethren laboring in *a common cause*, have been very unfortunate, whether we take into account the *respectability*, or the *progress and success* of Medical Reform; and it is equally to be lamented that these divisions have been suffered to exist so long.

The writer of this has traveled somewhat among the New School physicians of this State, and he has conversed with many others who have done so. From his own observation, and that of others, alike, he has always been brought to the same conclusions; namely, that while here and there a Physician is to be met with who is a *strong partisan* of one or the other School, still a very large majority remains of those who, when we come down to their true sentiments, deplore the divisions to which I have referred, and their consequences upon the cause, and would heartily rejoice to see them healed and forgotten. The great body of practicing Eclectic Physicians in our State *have never comprehended* a real necessity for the ruinous opposition they have witnessed, *nor have they fully sympathized* with the spirit by which it has been kept up. They have preferred, and doubtless will prefer, a consolidation of efforts, facilities for instruction, interests and patronage, in the support, in a more honorable manner, of ONE SUBSTANTIAL AND EVERY WAY CREDITABLE SCHOOL.

Guided by a knowledge of these facts, and animated with the same spirit in favor of a concentration of efforts and advantages, many of the Professors of both the College at Rochester and that at Syracuse, have long desired to effect a union; and they are now happy in being able to announce to the medical public *that such a union, upon a basis honorable and satisfactory to both parties, has been effected.*

Some of the more important features in relation to this movement will be here stated. As being a more central point for the State, and now quite as accessible from all directions, the City of Syracuse has been fixed on as the location of the combined School. Besides, the Faculty of the College there, had already secured a good suit of College Rooms, amply large, with a fine amphitheater, and which are situated in a substantial block, near the centre of the city.

According to the present arrangement, Professors C. NEWTON and G. W. MORROW of the Worcester School fill the Chairs of Pathology and Anatomy in the new College, and it is agreed that a Winter Course only be held at Syracuse, and a Spring Course at Worcester. Two Professors of C. M. College, at Rochester, also, with the consent of their colleagues, are included in the new Faculty, at Syracuse; and with them the interests and obligations of the former School are also transferred to the latter. The Professors who are to fill Chairs in the united Faculty, are L. C. DOLLEY, in the department of Surgical Pathology and Practice, &c., and L. REUBEN, in that of Physiology, &c. Considerations which it is unnecessary to state in detail, have determined the Rochester Faculty in their choice. Various reasons, and among them the unfortunate state of the health of one member of the Faculty, Prof. P. C. DOLLEY, have made it desirable with the remaining Professors of C. M. College, to take the present opportunity to discontinue, for the time, their connexion with Medical Colleges.

The retiring Professors will long be remembered with pleasure and regard by many whose course through the Medical Sciences they have contributed to smooth and adorn, and by the entire Eclectic Profession, for the advancement and upbuilding of which they have so faithfully and untiringly labored!

The coming Lecture Term, as will be seen by referring to the Announcement, is to commence on the first Monday in November, and is to continue four months. The Faculty are determined that the session shall continue, to a day, the full time advertised. This is made necessary, in fact, by the new arrangement. Four of the Professors will be in attendance during the first two months, and the remaining number during the last two. The Lectures will, however, occupy the full six hours customary, each Teacher having *one hour and a half* at his disposal. This plan must prove highly advantageous and acceptable to Students, as fewer subjects are presented at one time, the learner's mind is not confused with too many topics, the Lecturer has full time for what is technically known as the *Quiz*

and also for discussing his subject, and more substantial progress in each of the branches of a medical education must be the result.

The corps of Instructors is large. The Faculty now numbers nine Professors. They have thus an opportunity to divide the subjects of a Course to better advantage; to give to each the department which may constitute his *forte*, and to which he is prepared to do the best justice; and they have been enabled to introduce some of the new branches of the Science, as Microscopical Anatomy, not before taught in Reformed Medical Colleges. Some of the new Faculty are already well and favorably known by their past labors in the College at Syracuse and Cincinnati. Prof. FLATTERY and the other new members of the Faculty have the confidence of their colleagues.

The Anatomical Plates, and other materials for illustration, belonging to the School lately at Rochester, will be transferred, and serve as an addition to the facilities of the new school.

Students of C. M. College, who have purchased full-course tickets, and who may be entitled to the Lectures of one or more future sessions, will receive the same in the new College, free of all charge for Professors' Tickets, just as they would have done in Rochester.

The "Eclectic Journal of Medicine" will be transferred, at or before the end of the year, to Syracuse, and continued in its present size, style, and price: Dr. L. Reuben, Editor; assisted by Drs. L. C. Dolley, and S. H. Potter. It will be united with the "American Journal of Medicine," heretofore published by Prof. S. H. Potter, and sent to his subscribers during the balance of the year. Those who have paid in advance on both, will be credited on the united Journal, to the amount of both payments, and so will have paid to a more distant day in the future.

Students will see that under this arrangement, it is made not merely advisable, but almost positively necessary, that they should be on hand at the commencement of the course, and continue through it, without loss of any part of the term; as otherwise they cannot fail to lose some very important parts of the subjects of the course. No others, indeed, will be credited with a full course, in respect to graduation. Thus our arrangements are such as to secure the true interests of the student, and we hope they will be so regarded.

It is presumed that those who had contemplated attending the Rochester College, will be still better pleased with the prospect afforded them in the united College at Syracuse. Such may be assured that no false inducements are here held out, and no *clap-trap* has been resorted to, or will be, in the way of promises which are never

to be realized. None need hesitate on account of the impressions of the past. Such as we have described the new College and Faculty at Syracuse, they will be found to be. The Faculty, it will be seen, must combine, to some extent, the strength of *three Schools*. The Professors' Fees, including Matriculation, will be but *forty dollars*. The Faculty will labor faithfully to discharge their duties, will add to their facilities for instruction, and will hold themselves ready, as medical brethren, to extend a warm welcome, and all possible assistance to all who may decide in favor of attendance on their coming Lecture Course. R.

Physical Science of the Human Body.

FOR GENERAL READING.—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 384.

We have seen how Oxygen combines with Carbon, and with Hydrogen, by processes universally regarded as purely chemical, and forms the purely chemical compounds Carbonic acid, and Water.

We have seen how the growing plant, taking into its minute vessels those two compounds, secures a union between their elements, and thus elaborates a new and peculiar compound, such as cannot be produced from the same elements without plant-agency, namely, Dextrine.

And yet we have no reason to believe the union of elements in this latter case any less *chemical* in its nature, than in the former instances. In consideration of its being a chemical change taking place in a *living body*, we may therefore call it *vito-chemical*, or *zoo-chemical*.

It is one step above the dead-chemical process concerned in producing Water, not in its nature, but in the circumstances under which it occurs, and in the results to which it gives rise.

We have seen, too, how the plant, taking a wider sweep among the elements of matter, associates C. H. N. O. P. and S., in certain proportions, and forms from them Albumen, Casein, or Gluten. But here, again, we have a chemical process, because one that takes place between material elements.

Upon this plant, stored with Dextrine and its transformations into Starch, Sugar, Gum, &c., and with Albumen, Casein, and Gluten, the animal feeds.

We look for these matters, afterwards, in the fabric of the animal. All have disappeared except the last three,—the *Albuminous Class* of substances. These we find in the structures of the animal,—in

its nerve and muscle, and in its blood. In appearance, and sensible properties, they are found to be slightly changed; but in chemical composition they are, so far as the most careful researches have hitherto detected, identical with the same substancees in the plant.

Thus we arrive at the important principle *that the animal does not necessarily, or in all instances, change the composition or nature of the Albuminous matters furnished to it by the plant, but may, and does, merely appropriate them ready-formed.*

The plant, then, finds its food in simple elements, which it compounds; the animal, in compounds, which it decomposes.

Hence, we must commence the study of *animal chemistry proper*, at the head of the scale, where the animal finds its food,—as with the plant we commenced at the foot of the same scale.

The animal never produces any higher *chemical* development in the substances it consumes. It does, however, produce a higher *vital* development. Thus, the Gluten of Wheat is passive and inert. Let it pass through the digestive and blood-making systems of the animal, and it becomes endowed with vital power. It spontaneously forms *living fibre*, and spontaneously contracts, or exerts *vital power*.

I shall now proceed to the consideration of some of the most important constituents of the animal body.

1. Albumen.—In many respects, this is the most interesting material in the whole range of Organic Chemistry.

It may be discriminated from other organized substances by the following facts: In nature, it is found purest in the *white of eggs*. In fact, it is the name long since applied to the white of the egg,—from *albus, white*,—and since chemical analysis has detected it in other animal solids and fluids, the same name has been applied to it in all circumstances. By Albumen, however, we are to understand a given compound in a chemically pure condition; and even the white of egg is not quite pure Albumen.

This substance is found in less quantity in the yolk of eggs, and is there mixed with oil, coloring matter, &c. It is found largely in the blood, in nerves,—less in serous fluids, &c.

After what has been already said, I need hardly repeat that, chemically, it is identical with vegetable Albumen. Its composition, according to Mulder and Scherer, is C_{400}, H_{310}, O_{50}, N_{120}, P S. Some have supposed that a slight difference existed between the albumen of the egg, and that of the blood.

Whether an animal feeds upon Albumen, Casein, or Fibrin, and whether its food be derived from the animal or vegetable kingdom,

it has been ascertained that at the close of the process of digestion, Albumen alone is found,—all the substances of the class being reduced to this one form.

This is the form in which, mainly, the *chick* receives its nutriment. And here we see a wonderful proof of the capabilities of this body; as with the addition of a little oil, Iron, Lime, Soda, &c., found in the egg, we find it forms the bones, cartilages, ligaments, muscles, nerves, vessels, blood, membranes, feathers, claws,—in fact, the entire animal.

Chemical Properties.—Pure Albumen is not soluble in pure water. But in the egg, and in blood, it is dissolved. How is its solution brought about? This is supposed to be accomplished by the union of a minute quantity of Soda, or some other alkali, with the substance. In proof of this, if we add to dissolved Albumen almost any acid, it at once becomes insoluble, and is precipitated, or curdled. It takes the solid form. Now add a very little excess of alkali, and it is again dissolved.

The blood is always alkaline in health, and so are the egg, serous fluids, and so on.

Albumen may be coagulated, i. e., *precipitated* from its soluble state, by all acids, except the acetic and phosphoric. Heat produces the same effect; and so do alcohol, creasote, compounds of copper, lead, mercury, &c.

Some of these latter substances no doubt produce their injurious effects on the human system, in good part, by their tendency to coagulate the albumen of the blood.

The affinity of this body for the chemical salts, suggests it as a suitable antidote in cases of poisoning by them. The person who has swallowed corrosive sublimate, should immediately take down the whites of several eggs, if these are convenient. The Albumen combines with the poison, forming solid clots which cannot be dissolved by the ordinary fluids of the system, and so the deleterious matter is passed out of the body without the power to do harm.

By a happy provision of nature this insoluble substance, being made soluble by the presence of the alkali of the blood, returns the favor by dissolving about *two per* cent. of Phosphate of Lime, another very important ingredient of animal bodies, and which is itself insoluble in ordinary fluids. And thus the latter is introduced in needful quantities into the system at large, and is transported in abundance to the bones, in particular.

More anon. R.

Vaginal and Rectum Specula.

Cases fall into the hands of every practitioner of medicine, in which ocular examinations by means of Specula, are quite indispensable· But what a small proportion of our country practitioners are supplied with the necessary instruments. The number and usual expensiveness of the surgical instruments necessary for general practice, may be, and is probably the general apology for this. The Vaginal and Rectum Specula, manufactured by E. Haslam of Hoboken, N. J., are instruments which, for cheapness and serviceableness, we can cordially recommend to such as cannot afford the more expensive kinds. These are constructed of glass, covered externally with an amalgum and a suitable protective coating, which make the internal a fine reflecting surface. They are more easy kept clean than the metalic instruments, are quite as good for ordinary examinations and may be had for a quarter the price. From the last consideration, many will think them necessary to make this in reality the age of "rapidity, concentration and *cheapness*." L. C. D.

Monthly Medical Abstract.

Enlarged Bursæ About the Joints.—Cases are recently reported of successful treatment of these affections, by the celebrated Velpeau, and others in Paris ; injections of iodine being the measures of treatment relied upon. We have lately observed several cures effected promptly by the application of the Irritating Plaster.

Colchicum in Hysteria and St. Vitus' Dance.—It is stated in the *Gazette Medicale de Paris*, that, in both of these nervous affections the tincture of Colchicum has been tried with complete success.—Thirty drops of the tincture may be given every six or eight hours, until the convulsions cease.

A new mode of Administering Cod Liver Oil.—An Italian periodical recommends that the oil be made into bolusses, by combining with it powdered starch or arrowroot, and a small opiate. From 12 to 20 bolusses may be taken daily. The oil is thus rendered more acceptable to the stomach, is made more nutritive by the addition of fecula, and it is thought more servicable to the patient.

Hydrophobia—During the past few months, hydrophobia has been very prevalent in France. The Paris Board of Health has published the following :—

1. Every person bit by an animal who is mad, or suspected of being mad, should immediately press the wound on all sides, to force out the blood and the virus.

2. The wound should then be immediately washed with volatile alkali, with soap suds, with lime water, with salt water, or pure water, or if none of these are at hand, with urine.

3. An iron, at white heat, should next be passed deeply into the wound.

Dr. Comstock, Editor of the "Homœopathic Medical News Letter," published in St. Louis, reports in the July No. of his periodical, a case of Hydrophobia successfully treated with Tinc. Belladonna, Tinc. Hyosciamus and Lachresis. The attack was severe, the vesicles which formed under the tongue were punctured and touched with Chloride of Zinc.

Nitric Acid in Rain Water.—M. Barral has lately found, after more than six months experimenting, that the rain water collected at Paris, contains appreciable quantities of nitric acid. The discovery has been confirmed by a committee composed of such men as Dumas, and Farago.

The Cucumber, &c.—According to an analysis made by Prof. Salsbury, of Albany, 97 per cent. of the cucumber, 94 per cent. of the water melon, and 90 per cent. of the musk melon, is water.

Bronchitis.—A writer has recently imputed this disease in clergymen to the tight swathing of their necks in white cravats. The malady in others he thinks is induced by stiff cravats and starched shirt collars.

Good Success.—L. N. J., M. D., a graduate of C. M. College, and now in practice in Canada, writes: "I have now been in B. six months, and though I came here a stranger to every one, I have not been idle. During this time I have treated from 250 to 300 patients, and have lost, in reality, but *one*, and that an aged man of apoplexy, in which there was large sanguineous effusion."

Convention.—The Thomsonians hold a National Convention at Baltimore, on Wednesday, the 13th of October.

Gradual Reduction of Herniæ long Irreducible.—M. Malgaigne's plan of reducing Voluminous Herniæ, consists in subjecting the patient to very low diet and purgation, applying ice or cold poultices to the tumor, and taxis daily. He recently reports cases, one of which was an original enterocele, unreduced for several years and as large as an ordinary hat; was completely reduced in 17 days. Another was reduced by the above measures in 6 days, having been unreduced for 7 years. L. C. D.

Miscellany.

Old Fogyism.—The Editor of the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal, says, "Old fogyism in science, as in politics, *is becoming obsolete.*" We are happy to agree with Dr. Smith upon a truism so important to the times. We can also accord heartily with the special application the Dr. makes of this principle, found in the following words: "Freshness of thought, ingenuity and application, and a happy tact in communicating instruction, must be estimated above prosy, hum-drum discourses that have been repeated till they have become opiates."

Very true, say we; and we know that the classes of all medical schools, Eclectic, Allopathic, or what not, will vote it true, by acclamation. And will not the same rule apply to the Editors of Medical Journals? Do we want "hum-drum" in the Editorial page, any more than from the Professor's chair? The Editors of the Eclectic Journal of Medicine are fain to regard an opportunity to communicate wholesome information, in any shape, as more valuable than whole cart-loads of "hum-drum" dignity. "And let all the people say, Amen!"

Origin of Cholera.—An attempt has been made to account for the origin of this frightful disease, by making it a consequence of the disuse of *salt* in India, during the existence of the high tax levied on that article by the tyrannical Warren Hastings.

That salt, in proper quantities, acts as a healthy stimulant to the red corpuscles of the blood, and to the nervous system, besides contributing to furnish Hydro-chloric acid for the Gastric juice, and Soda for the Blood, Bile, &c., I have no doubt. Further, I belive the internal use of salt to be beneficial in the treatment of Cholera, and choleroid complaints. But I apprehend the new theory can hardly stand. For, first, it would make Cholera necessarily a *contagious* disease, while the contrary is coming to be everywhere admitted; and, secondly, according to this theory, the Indian tribes of our country should have perished long ago with the disease. Cholera should have been *American*, and not *Asiatic.*

New Lebanon Springs Water-Cure.—This long-known and popular Cure is now under the medical charge of Dr. B. Wilmarth, who has for many years been a successful practitioner of the Hydriatic system, and who is now President of the American Hydropathic Association. The Doctor's integrity and skill are equal to his reputation—a high recommendation—and patients may safely place themselves under his care.

CHLOROFORM, A DISEASE.—"*Death by Chloroform*" stares us in the face from the pages of almost every Medical and Secular periodical. The new Disease is becoming one of the most fatal in our country. Will not our Surgeons and Dentists soon remove the "exciting cause" of this fell dispensation, by a judicious substitution of Ether, or, where it can be done, of the *courage* of the subject?

DECIDEDLY PAT-HOLOGICAL.—The reporter of a *post mortem* examination in one of our Medical weeklies, says, "The omentum *was found entirely* GONE, not a vestige of it remaining" (!) Surely it was a true Hibernian of a Surgeon that found it!

CARELESSNESS OF SUBSCRIBERS.—Our friends sometimes complain that we send them bills for past Volumes, for which they have really paid. Now this is too bad, and we are sorry for it; but they should remember that we look to our "subscription list" for accounts, and consider all not credited there, as unpaid. When money is sent to us, *with the P. O. address of the sender*, we always refer at once to that office on our books, and credit the amount. But frequently letters come to us, with money, or without, but destitute of any address, or of the most important part of it, the Post Office. Now we can not sit down, and spend an hour in reading over hundreds of names, to find what, with the simple key of the P. O. address, we should find in one minute; and so our negligent friends receive no credit on the books.

Rule:—Never write to Editor or Publisher, without making your Post Office an indispensable item in your letter.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS of Physicians will receive a space in our Journal, if those interested choose to send the notices to us.

PAY UP.—Will our friends in Canada please remember their unpaid accounts for the Journal, and that as soon as convenient.

BAD BILLS.—We will sincerely thank our friends to ascertain whether bank bills are good, before they send them in payment for the Journal. We have unwittingly received a couple of eye-openers in the shape of bad bills lately, and we shall probably know of whom we take "paper currency," hereafter. R.

BOOK NOTICES, &c.—We are compelled, from want of space, to lay over several Book Notices and other items of editorial matter until next month. L. C. B.

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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Inflammation and Blood-letting.

BY P. C. DOLLEY, M. D.

The following is a brief synopsis of views presented in several lectures before the classes of C. M. College, upon Inflammation and Blood-letting. Those portions devoted to the consideration of the general phenomena of inflammation—such as heat, redness, swelling, abscess, suppuration, gangrene, &c.,—being entirely omitted.

It is said by all writers upon inflammation, that when the web of a frog's foot is put under the microscope and irritated, the vessels first contract, and then dilate; and if the irritation be kept up, there will soon appear an increased number of white corpuscles in the part; that these adhere to the coats of the vessels, and finally choke them up, and after a thorough congestion has taken place, the white corpuscles, or fibrin, penetrates the coats of the vessel, and effusion and coagulable lymph is the result.

"The colorless globules, called lymph globules by Muller, which are said by Williams to be 'pretty good representatives of the proportion of fibrin in the blood,' are obviously increased in number, and may be seen, after the application of an irritant to the part under examination, to move more slowly than the general current of the blood, as if from a tendency to adhere to the inner suface of the blood vessels."

From the best evidence I can gather, it appears that the increase of fibrin is first local, commencing in the part affected or irritated, and that, as the local excitement increases, it communicates itself to

other parts, until the whole system is brought under its influence, and inflammatory fever is the result; and so with the fibrin, which at first increases only in the part affected, is soon multiplied in other parts of the system, till the blood is highly charged with it.

Now, this is a plain statement of the condition of an inflammatory part, and it seems to me to be no very difficult matter to understand the conditions as observed. Writers have spent a great amount of time in discussing the question, whether the blood vessels were in a more highly vitalized condition, or in a state of exhaustion; and the cause of the enlarged condition of the blood vessels; overlooking, in their zeal for the calibre of the vessel, the real cause and conditions of inflammatory action.

We see that the blood vessels are enlarged; and we see at the same time, that there is an increase of fibrine in the part, and an increase of excitement, as shown by heat, redness, pain, &c. It is important to consider these together, because it is not the increased flow of blood, or increase of fibrin, that produces the irritation or excitement, for that was first, and these result from it.

In the natural condition of the circulation we see the fibrin, or white corpuscles, made or growing out of the albumen of the blood; and these white corpuscles flowing along the surface of the blood vessels, for the purposes of nutrition. Now what has nature done or provided in case of injuries, that a reparative action may take place?—simply that the excitement caused by the injury shall cause an increase of fibrin, and an effusion of coagulable lymph, so essential to the healing of wounds, fractures, &c. Now this explains the condition in inflammation: there is an exalted condition of the vitality of the surfaces of the blood vessels,—and this is essential to an increase of nutrition,—and this vitality not only produces an increase of fibrin, but causes it to adhere to the surface of the blood vessels, or be attracted to them, as in the nutritive process.

The blood is not at first in fault, but is brought into a certain condition by the increased vitality—which is simply a stimulus to nutrition, as the sunlight and warmth are to the nutrition of plants, &c. If this be not the cause of an increase of fibrin, what influences are at work in the system to make it run up from three parts to ten or more in one hundred? Or what objection is there to the doctrine of an increase of nutritive force?

It seems to me to be perfectly plausible, and in harmony with all physiological truths, to believe that the nutrient nerves are placed over the circulation to regulate the supplies of the system according to its expressed wants; and if there is a want expressed, these will respond as well when irritated artificially, as when through the ordinary operations of the system—i. e., the excitement artificially produced is the same as the natural, except in degree.

If this position be true, we shall see that it has an important bearing upon the treatment of inflammation, and particularly upon blood-letting. Why do physicians bleed in inflammation? Wood, Watson, Hall, &c., say "it is to change the quality as well as to reduce the quantity of the blood." But how is the blood in fault?

It must be either from having too many white or red corpuscles—for these are all the parts that can have any influence upon the inflammation. But Andral and other eminent writers, say that the white corpuscles are fibrin, and not diminished by bleeding. Andral says, "I have, then, naturally to inquire, how far bleeding, repeated more or less frequently, has the power of removing the excess of fibrin in the blood, rapidly or gradually? Now it is found that however repeated or abundant the bleedings, the fibrin increases none the less, if these bleedings are performed in the early stages of an inflammation of some intensity, or, in other words, at the period of the ordinary increase of the disease; on the other hand, the inflammation does not prevent there being found, after each bleeding, a progressive diminution of the globules. It seems, then, that when the blood has set about producing an excess of fibrin, no matter what is done, a certain time must elapse before this disposition is exhausted. * * * * The most copious loss of blood does not effect the immediate removal of the lesions of the solid; a certain space of time is always necessary for accomplishing this, and for the extinction of the fever. So that the fibrin—the quantity of which in the blood represents the degree of inflammation—obeys the same law which makes the latter continue for a certain time, and pass through certain stages."

"I might cite several cases in which the same person having been bled some days before the outset of the phlegmasia, and again during the course thereof, his blood, which contained the normal quantity of fibrin at the first depletion, was much more abundantly provided with it at the subsequent ones."

E. W. Richardson, in an article in the London Lancet, says: "The question whether venesection causes an increase of fibrin, is not yet fairly settled; but the inference is strong that it does do so." The statements of Carpenter and others confirm the above.

But frequently this element is increased by bleeding, hence there is nothing gained in this respect; and how could there be? It is made at the point of irritation, and drawn off at a distant point, by the opening of a vein. It is made in the arteries, and drawn from another set of vessels. It is like attempting to dry a stream by draining it at its mouth instead of its source.

But bleeding many times is a direct cause of inflammation, (see Hall,) and if so, how can it cure at the same time; and particularly how can it be from any effect upon the fibrinous condition of the blood?

How can venesection effect the red globules? It certainly does diminish them; but is this a desirable result? The red globules can only act as a stimulus to the system, and keep up the febrile movement accompanying the inflammation, and it follows as a matter of course, that if venesection were to reduce the fever in inflammation, it would be of service in other fevers; for in all continued and other fevers, not accompanied by inflammation, the red globules predominate. But no one should bleed in these fevers. Wood is very pointed, in all fevers, against bleeding, unless there is inflammatory action

developed. But the red globules predominate, the pulse is accelerated, there is a great quantity of blood, and the red globules are the only parts of the blood that can increase the excitement. But it is utter nonsense to bleed in these cases, and, as Wood says, "the strength of the body may be exhausted, the force of the pulse reduced, and yet the fever shall not have abated one iota of its violence or its duration. Bleeding is wholly powerless in the eradication or control of febrile movement."

It is not the blood, then, or its quality, which is in fault; for bleeding does not reduce or otherwise favorably affect the fibrinous condition, and the red globules we do not wish to reduce, as is shown by the results of bleeding in fevers; but it "reduces the quantity!" True, it does; and in reducing temporarily the quantity of blood, it augments the fibrin, if it changes it at all, and reduces the quantity of red corpuscles, both of which are sad results. Why is the reduction of the red corpuscles a sad result? Let us look at the office of the red corpuscles. They serve as "carriers" (Liebig) of oxygen to the system, and transport effete matter from it to the lungs. Bleeding reduces the number of these servants of the system, and just as effectually prevents the admission of oxygen to the system, as if it were shut out from the lungs; and I ask any man to tell me the difference in effect upon the functions of the system, between taking away one-half of the red globules and shutting off one-half of the pure air which a man should breathe? In either case the system gets but one-half the oxygen required, and is relieved of but one-half of its effete matter through the lungs. Is not this so? If it is, why not go to the bleeders and ask them to shut off good pure air from their patients, instead of taking away their blood, and that part which is so slow in forming again? But this change in the quality, &c., of blood, is all a fiction, and hence the ease with which they can be made to succumb in their arguments.

The truth is, they do not bleed for such purposes, but to bring the patient to a state, more or less approaching syncope, in which the local excitement, together with all the various functions of the system, are partially suspended; and it is only while this depression lasts, that it can be of any service; for just as soon as the system rallies —and many times even before—the inflammatory excitement will run just as high as before. They battle an effect instead of the cause, and their practice here, as in other cases, is to besiege the very citadel of life, or lower the vitality of the general system permanently, before they reach the difficulty at all, instead of at once touching and removing the cause and arresting the disease in a safe and philosophic manner. This cause, as I have tried to show, lies in the irritated condition of the nerves controlling nutrition, and the surfaces of the capillaries and other larger vessels; and the venesectionist acts at a point very distant from this, even, in the scale of relations, and feebly at that.

We can here see how it is that perspiration acts so promptly in inflammation; for this is known to be the best method of allaying excitement and equalizing the circulation; as also alkaline baths,

packing in wet sheets, nauseants, cathartics, fomentations, &c., which must be the real agents of cure, whether venesection be employed or not. Various effects of blood-letting—diseases produced by it, its inefficiency, &c. &c.—circumstances prevent me from even alluding to at this time.

Hospital of Foundling Infants—Paris.

BY M. M. RODGERS, M. D.

"Le Hospice des Enfans Trouves," is situated in Rue d'Enfer, or the Street of Hell, near the Observatory, in the south quarter of Paris. The first regular institution of this kind in Paris, was established in 1552. It was then customary to place a large cradle containing several foundlings, in the Temple of Notre Dame, in order to excite public sympathy towards them. In 1640, through the philanthropic efforts of St. Vincent De Paule, in behalf of foundlings, government was induced to place this institution on a permanent basis; it has been fostered by the same means down to the present time.

It is an extensive stone building with four wards: one for general diseases, one for cutaneous diseases, one for diseases of the eye, and one for surgical cases. Nothing can exceed the neatness, order and comforts here prepared for the helpless little tenants. They are usually brought by night and deposited in a box placed under a scuttle in the street-wall; when the infant is placed in the box, it turns on a pivot, and rings a bell, which immediately brings out a *sage femme*, who receives the tender responsibility, and welcomes it to the cares of the Institution, while its own mother bids it a formal *adieu*, and knows it no more forever. It is then taken into a large room containing 150 cradles, and dressed and nursed, until sent to the country to be nursed and reared by some peasant woman, who becomes its foster mother, until it attains the age of twelve years. It is then transferred to the Orphan Asylum, or engaged in some trade or other occupation. In many cases, the attachment formed between the child and its foster parents is so strong, that they remain together in the relation of parent and child through life. Any person can obtain a foundling for adoption, by giving security for its support and education.

The Hospital receives 4,000 infants annually: this number, as the writer was informed by Dr. Guillot, the physician, is one sixth of all the children born in Paris.

Of these children, 60 per cent. die in infancy; one fifth, or about 800 of the 4,000 are known to be illegitimate. Mothers are admitted with their infants if they desire it, until they are sent into the country. During our visits, we usually saw several of them there, nursing and fondling their offspring; they appeared neat, intelligent and respectable; and although many were unwilling to part with their babies, they seemed to submit with pious resignation, as the only means of continuing their existence. A school is kept in the hospi-

tal for the benefit of such as remain, either for medical treatment or for want of places in the country.

Vaccination is practiced as soon as they arrive, without regard to age. Those who are very young are swathed in white, coarse linen, from the chin to the toes, so as to prevent all motion of the limbs ; they are then laid in iron cradles, upon clean white beds, surrounded by white linen curtains. It is a most comical spectacle to see these miniature pieces of mortality, in the morning after being washed and swathed, and before being deposited in the cradles, lying in long squalling files, on wide boards inclined towards a coal fire, each angrily remonstrating on his own account, and tugging to get free from the barbarous bandages, by which his liberty is so unnecessarily abridged.

It has been objected to this Institution, that its tendency is to encourage licentiousness and the abandonment of infants by their mothers; but similar objections hold to some extent against all public charities whatever. Licentiousness and crime *will exist*, and so long as this is true, provision should be made to save the lives and alleviate the sufferings of the unfortunate ones who are ushered into a world of sorrow, as a consequence of the erring conduct and devious ways of their parents. It would be now, most cruel to close the doors of this home of the forsaken, only because they were born out of the pale of wedlock. If this has some obstacles to encounter, and imperfections to remedy, so have all human institutions, though organized upon the wisest plans. If the *parents* have erred, the *infants have not*. The life of every mortal is a *forced state*, as well as his death; birth and death are the invariable terms and limits of existence.—We are sent into life by an infinite power, and by that same invisible hand the gates of destiny are closed behind us. The infant is no more responsible for his advent on the Earth, than for his entree into eternity.

By the ties of our common humanity, we are all obligated to assist and sustain every member of the family of man, without calling in question his right to live, or the purity of his origin.

Neuralgia.

Messrs Editors:—It will be remembered by all who have listened to the lectures of the much lamented Professor Morrow, that with him the application of the Irritating Plaster as nearly as possible over the stylo-mastoid foramen, was a very favorite measure of treatment for facial neuralgia. I think all who have tested its value, cannot fail to speak of it in the most commendatory terms. Some three or four years since I was led to modify the course of treatment recommended by Prof. M., and the results of the practice in this disease, which I now adopt, have been most gratifying indeed. I may be indnlged in laying before the readers of the E. J. of Medicine, briefly, my course of proceedure in these cases.

In some cases I do not wait for the irritating plaster to denude the surface beneath the ear, but first vesicate a portion of surface an inch

or so in diameter, with the common blister plaster. As soon as the cuticle is raised, it is entirely removed, and the irritating plaster applied to the raw surface, it being first dressed with from a half to a grain of sulph. morphia. Free suppuration is kept up by means of this plaster, until the disease seems entirely cured; and the morphine is applied beneath it once or twice in twenty-four hours, or as often as the severity of the pain requires. Its effects are usually immediate, and most efficient in allaying the pain; and the constipation and other unpleasant results attending its internal administration, are avoided.

The patient is placed, from the commencement, upon an infusion of equal parts of scutellaria, cypripedium and asclepias, a combination which I have found of great value, not only in neuralgia, but in nervous headache, and the whole class of neuroses. Besides this, until I am able to make the endermic application of the morphine, and afterwards, whenever the pain is severe, I direct two grs. of hyoscyamus to be administered once in from two to four hours, until relief from pain is experienced.

All causes which may have served to derange the nervous functions, are removed as early as possible. It is almost universally the case, that hepatic or cutaneous torpor, or uterine derangement, will be found to exist in connection with the nervous disease, the correction of which helps not a little to expedite its cure. The system must be gradually toned up by cold baths, the dripping sheets, &c., judiciously applied.

I have had numerous and severe cases of this excruciating disease to prescribe for, and with scarcely an exception, by the measures above indicated, the pain has been controlled within a very few hours, and health gradually restored. I have strongly inclined to the belief, that, when the pain is confined to the facial nerve in its distribution upon the face and temple, the seat of irritation is at or near its origin, within the cranium; hence the extreme tenderness anterior to the mastoid process, the place of its exit, and also the great benefit arising from suitable counter-irritation applied over this point.

R. N. Y.

Exercise and Diet of Students.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—As this is the season of the year in which many medical and other students commence their collegiate or academic course of studies, and change their habits from such as require, active physical exercise of various kinds, to those of sedentary life, a few hints in relation to their diet and exercise may not be amiss. From a want of knowledge and appreciation of the importance of attending to the health in the direction named, many are compelled either to abandon wholly their literary pursuits, or to greatly abbreviate their career of usefulness, by having become early victims of acute or chronic diseases.

While in constant attendance upon medical lectures, or employed in literary pursuits of any kind, students ought to be very cautious,

that the brain does not monopolize forces which are necessary for health and activity in other organs. In a word, an equilibrium should be sustained between the nervous and muscular system; for upon this depends to no limited extent the healthy performance of all the functions of the body.

To sustain such balance, a considerable amount of voluntary physical exercise is required. This should be of an active kind, and taken as much as possible in the open air. It is unnecessary in this place to dwell at length upon the merits of various kinds of exercise—either walking, fencing, throwing the quoit, or some of the various athletic exercises in the open air, should be made to constitute a part of the routine of each day. The exercise, whatever it is, should enlist the whole interest, and a good amount of physical force.

Though, while prosecuting their studies, young men may not be able to acquire or retain that physical hardihood which

> "Can snore upon the flint, while resty sloth
> Finds the down-pillow hard,"

they need not, and should not allow the stamina of their constitutions to suffer, and their days to be shortened by their mental labors.

Walking is known to be quite as beneficial, and more available to the student than any other kind of exercise. The principle objection to walking, is, that it does not always call the mind away sufficiently from subjects of previous thought. Hear what Captain Partridge, whose life illustrated some wholesome truths, says: "Amongst the many important advantages that I feel I have derived from combining regular, and in some instances severe, exercises with study, is the enjoyment of almost uninterrupted good health. I am now, and always have been, entirely free from those debilitating affections under which so many of our literary men have sunk, and are fast sinking. If, then, they were to inquire of me what they must do to preserve and enjoy health, I should readily answer, discard about nine-tenths of the rules laid down by the pedantic writers and lecturers on that subject—walk at least ten miles each day, at the rate of four miles per hour; about three or four times each year, shoulder your knapsack, and, with your barometer, &c., ascend to the summits of our principal mountains, and determine the altitudes, walking from thirty to eighty miles per day, according as you can bear the fatigue; do all these, and I will assure you firm and vigorous constitutions, and an entire freedom from those loads of debility, dyspepsia, &c., under which so many of you are laboring and languishing out a comparatively miserable existence. Adhere to these rules, and study, however severe, will not injure you; on the contrary, your mental vision will keep pace with the improvement of your physical energies."

Besides such vigorous out-door exercises, frequent opportunities will be afforded during intermissions between lectures, &c., for others quite as genteel and profitable, as the use of the grace-hoops, dumb-bells, &c., all of which should be improved. Chess, chequers, and other games of the kind should be scrupulously avoided.

In reference to the diet of persons of studious habits, it may be observed that there is less carbon consumed, and consequently less fuel, and also less nutritive stimulus required; so the quantity of food taken should be less, and the quality less concentrated, than would be proper for a working man.

The amount of nervous energy that has to be expended in brain labor, forbids us taxing the stomach with a large amount of food, when we have called the nervous force away from that organ; hence such articles of diet as milk, eggs, fruits, Graham bread, puddings, &c., that serve to nourish quite abundantly, while they are easily digested, are the best adapted to a sedentary life. It is hardly necessary to say that all nervous stimulants, like tea and coffee, should be avoided, as well as tobacco-chewing and smoking. Will not our young friends show more wisdom in these matters, and bless the world with more sound minds in sound bodies? H. D. Y.

SELECTIONS.

Curative Treatment of Aneurism of the Aorta.

We reproduce such portions of a valuable practical essay on this subject, by Dr. O'B. Dellingham, as most plainly set forth his mode of treatment.

The indications of treatment in aneurism are—

1. To diminish the distending force of the blood from within, by which the further enlargement of the sac will be prevented, and it will be placed under a favorable condition to contract.

2. To endeavor to strengthen the parietes of the sac by favoring the gradual deposition in its interior of the fibrin of the blood which passes through it, by which the risk of its rupture will be diminished.

3. To endeavor to maintain the continued deposition of fibrin in the sac, until it is filled, and no longer permits the entrance of blood.

4. To bring about these results without deteriorating the quality of the blood, or diminishing too much the patient's strength.

The plan of treatment which appears to be best calculated to fulfil the indications in view is almost essentially dietetic. It consists in limiting the patient, for a given period, to the smallest quantity of fluid possible; in diminishing considerably likewise the solid aliment; in confining the patient at the same time to bed, and endeavoring to maintain the mind in as tranquil a state as possible. Dr. Bellingham is neither an advocate for bleeding or purgatives (except occasionally, if required), nor for diuretics or digitalis, or any of the other medicines which have been used in this disease, with the exception of opium, and this only when sleep is prevented by pain.

By confining the patient to the horizontal posture, the circulation is tranqilized, and the heart's action becomes slower. When this is combined with a small quantity of solid nutriment, and a still smaller quantity of liquid, the heart's action will become slower, and the pulse compressible, small, and soft. Its effect upon the blood will be to render this fluid thicker, as the watery portions are excreted by the kidneys and skin. Thus, less blood will pass through the aneurismal sac, it will be transmitted with less force, and in a diminished stream, while its quality will be improved; all which circumstances are favorable to the deposition of fibrin in the aneurismal sac; and as the muscles are not exercised, there is no waste of fibrin in supplying them.

The diet constituted an important item in the treatment of aneurism advocated by Albertini and Valsalva, where a very low diet was combined with copious and frequent bloodletting. Some modern writers, likewise, recommended certain restrictions in this particular, but they have been content with general directions under this head. We shall not be able to effect much, unless precise directions as to the exact quantity and kind of food are laid down. Dr. Bellingham would limit the patient to three meals a day, the morning and evening meal to consist of two ounces of liquid, and the same of solid nutriment; the mid-day meal of from two to four ounces of liquid, with from two to four ounces of solid. The liquid may consist of milk or tea, the solid of bread; and at the mid-day meal, of bread and meat in equal quantity. No deviation from this dietary should be permitted, and it must be persevered in for a fixed period—six weeks or a month at least; when it may gradually be improved. If the patient is weighed on commencing it, and this done occasionally afterwards, we shall have a guide as to the advisability of continuing it or improving it.

This plan of treating aortal aneurism is not proposed on purely theoretical grounds. It is applicable not only to aneurism of the thoracic and abdominal aorta, but to all those cases where the sac springs from a branch of this vessel, and is beyond the reach of surgical interference; as to aneurism of the innominata, of the subclavian, and of the carotid at the root of the neck, as well as to aneurism of the common iliac. Dr. Bellingham has employed it, but for a shorter period, with much advantage, as a preliminary to the application of compression in popliteal aneurism.

In a mode of treatment such as this, success will of course depend in a great measure upon the perseverance with which it is carried out. It is, therefore, necessary that the patient should be made aware of the dangerous nature of his disease; as he will be more likely to submit cheerfully to the restriction. Indeed, unless he co-operates in carrying out the treatment fully and fairly, it can never be effectually maintained.

It might be objected that the tendency of so very restricted a diet is to produce a state of anæmia; but this result is scarcely to be feared, unless bloodletting is employed.

Dr. Bellingham relates a case in which this treatment was carried out with great success. We subjoin the state of the patient at the commencement, and at the end of the treatment.

CASE.—P. D., aged 50, admitted April 19, 1849. He now suffers principally from pain and cough: the pain commences at a point at the upper part of the right side of the chest, near the sternum, where a pulsation is visable; it darts through the chest to the scapula on the same side, and extends also to the axilla and righl arm, sometimes reaching to the fingers, generally not extending below the elbow.—He describes this pain as being most severe at night. He complains of pain on pressure over the site of the aneurism; he cannot bear percussion there, and the application of the stethoscope even causes pain; this is likewise much increased by coughing, but particularly by sneezing.

For the last three weeks, he has been unable to lie upon the left side; can lie upon the right, but he prefers lying upon the back.

On examination, a pulsation is felt, and seen to the right of the sternum, above and below the junction of the cartilage of the third rib with this bone; no tumour is prominent upon the surface, but the pulsation is well marked. This part is very painful to the touch, and to it particularly the patient refers the pain which he suffers on coughing. On placing the hand on it, the pulsation is felt to be double; on placing one hand upon the sternum and the other upon the right scapula, behind, a heaving of the chest is perceived with each ventricular systole.

On auscultation over the aneurism, a loud double sound is audible, which is syncronous with the double impulse, and resembles accurately the double sound of the heart; it diminishes in intensity as we approach the heart; no murmur accompanies either aneurismal sound. The heart's action is strong, and felt over a large surface; the impulse of the apex is lower down than natural, towards the epigastrium; its sounds normal. The pulse 80, regular, having the same strength in both wrists; the inspiration is bronchial over the site of the aneurism; the expiration not altered.

June 28. The patient has been up now for some days; he feels weak, but makes no complaint of pain or uneasiness; the pulse is 80, and small in the sitting posture; the carotids are observed, and felt to pulsate strongly; slight jugular pulsation is observed above the clavicles; no pulsation is visible to the eye at the site of the aneurism, but a slight movement is perceptible in that part of the chest when the hand or stethoscope is laid on it, but is unlike that of an aneurism. On auscultation, the double sound is well marked over the seat of the aneurism; no bruit accompanies the first sound, but a slight bruit is audible at one point with the second sound.

He was soon discharged from the hospital; and, when seen by Dr. Bellingham recently, he had continued in a satisfactory state, and had been able to follow his employment as a shoemaker from the time of his dismissal.

The following are the CONCLUSIONS with which Dr. Bellingham sums up his paper:—

1st. Aneurism of the aorta is not necessarily an incurable disease.

2dly. It appears to be more amenable to curative treatment than is ordinarily supposed.

3dly. Treatment ought always to be especially directed to this object.

4thly. When a spontaneous cure occurs, it is always by the gradual deposition of the fibrin of the blood in layers within the aneurismal sac until it is filled up.

5thly. If we hope to succeed in effecting a cure, it must be by imitating the mode in which Nature brings this about.

6thly. In order to favor the gradual deposition of fibrin, we should aim at diminishing the mass of blood, and lessening the strength and rapidity of the current through the aneurismal sac.

7thly. This can only be indirectly accomplished by acting upon the general circulation.

8thly. Neither bleeding, purgatives, diuretics, digitalis, nor the various other remedies which have been employed in this disease, can be depended upon for producing these effects.

9thly. An extremely restricted diet, particularly in fluids, continued for a certain time, appears to have the effect of rendering the pulse small, compressible, and slow, and at the same time diminishing the mass of blood.

10thly. The cases related afford evidence that these results may be brought about by treatment conducted upon the foregoing plan.

11thly. This method of treatment, to prove effectual, must be steadily and perseveringly carried out, and must be continued until a decided impression is made upon the disease.

12thly. It is adapted not only to aneurism of the thoracic and abdominal aorta, but to aneurism in any of the immediate branches of these vessels. And if employed as a preliminary to compression, pain will be diminished, and the duration of the treatment considerably abridged.—*London Jour. of Med.*

Gelseminum Sempervirens.

BY F. D. HILL, M. D., CINCINNATI.

GELSEMINUM SEMPERVIRENS—*Sex. Sys.* Pentandria Digynia. *Gen. Char.*, *Calyx*, small, five-leaved ; *Corolla*, funnel-form ; *Border*, spreading, five-lobed, nearly equal ; *Capsule*, two-celled ; *Seeds*, flat.

Spe. Char.—Stem, twining, smooth glabrous ; *Leaves*, opposite, perennial, lanceolate, entire, dark green above, pale beneath ; *Petioles*, short.

The root of the gelsemium is the part used, and it is known by the common names of *Yellow Jessamine*, *Wild Jessamine*, and *Woodbine*.

Hab.—The Gelseminum is indigenous to this country, and is found growing wild throughout the Southern States, and is also cultivated in gardens. It bears a *yellow* flower which makes its appearance in June and July.

Mode of Preparation.—Take any quantity of the fresh, green roots ; wash, bruise, and cover them with *whiskey* or *diluted alcohol*. Let it stand, with an occasional shaking, until the strength is thoroughly extracted. When the *tincture* is thus prepared, it is of a dark red

color, presenting a blue-like tinge. I refer the reader to the ECLECTIC DISPENSATORY, for the history of the discovery of its *medicinal* properties.

Medical Properties and Uses.—Gelseminum is stimulant, tonic, and antispasmodic. By its relaxing effect it produces gentle diaphoresis, and is said to be *narcotic*. Its effect in large doses, or doses too frequently repeated, is extreme relaxation, and general prostration of the whole muscular and nervous system. It will suspend and hold in check muscular irritability and nervous excitement with more force and power than any other known remedy. It is of a pleasant bitter taste, and performs its wonder-working cures, in all febrile diseases, without exciting either nausea, vomiting, or purging. When enough has been given to produce its specific effect, the eye is dimmed, the vision clouded and double, the head light and dizzy. When these effects follow the administration of this remedy, no more should be given until the patient has entirely recovered from its influence. "It may be used in all species of fevers, nervous and bilious head-ache, colds, pneumonia, hemorrhages, leucorrhea, chorea, ague-cake, asthma, and many other diseases : but its efficacy has been most admired in all forms and grades of fevers." It should always be used with great care and caution. The root is said to possess a resinous principle, which, when extracted by pure alcohol, will produce death in very small doses. But no such effect need be expected from the proper dose of the common tincture. There is danger of carrying it to such an extent as to suspend involuntary muscular action, and when this is the case, death must ensue. "It is incompatible with no known substance, and may follow any *preceding treatment with perfect safety.*" The dose is forty drops for an adult, and children in proportion to age and temperament. It is given either with or without quinine ; but seems to have a better effect when given in connection with from two to three grains of quinine. It has been used alone for *chronic rheumatism*, in doses of forty drops three times a day, with marked effects. Three or four doses, with a mild cathartic, will remove the redness and swelling attending inflamed sore eyes. Special attention should be directed to the general health and constitution of the patient before giving gelseminum. If the bowels be constipated they should be moved by a gentle aperient, and kept in a relaxed condition. It requires double the quantity to produce the effect on some that it does on others ; and should the practitioner ever produce too great a degree of relaxation, he should lose no time in stimulating and toning up his patient. The writer has overcome the relaxing effects, and restored the proper vision, by giving ten grains of quinine.—This will strengthen the patient quicker than any thing else. Dr. Fisk says, "he wants nothing else but gelseminum and extract of cypripedium in all cases of childbirth." Dr. Stockwell says, "it is one of the most quieting, soothing, and relaxing remedies he ever used." By giving twenty-five drops three times a day, he has produced gentle diaphoresis which other remedies failed to do. He gave the full dose, to a man who had had the dysentery for a week, together with two grains of quinine, three times a day, with happy

effect. More is yet to be learned about the curative effects of this remedy. The field is open, and practitioners must and will investigate for themselves.—*Eclectic Med. Jour.*

The Gelseminum is one of the quite extensive catalogue of highly useful indigenous plants, the discovery of the medical properties of which, is due to practitioners of the Eclectic School; the attention of physicians generally, having been called to it through the "Eclectic Dispensatory." The recent concurrent testimony of both Eclectic and Allopathic writers seems to confirm fully, the views first advanced respecting its value, and prove it worthy of trial with such as have not yet introduced it into their practice.

Dr. J. B. Hickman, of Mo., states in the Oct. No. of the Eclectic Medical Journal, that he has used it in about one hundred cases of fever, without a failure in any case. He says, "a good way to prepare it is with the Hydro-Alcoholic Extractor; but a more convenient and entirely efficient way is, to take the green roots, well cleansed and bruised, and make a simple saturated tincture, by filling a light vessel of any size with them, and pouring on good whiskey till they are covered, then let it stand and macerate ten days, when it will be ready to strain and bottle for use. I generally give an adult 30 drops of this tincture every two hours till three doses have been taken, males frequently require a few drops more, but 30 is as much as most females require.

When I wish to bring them under its influence quickly, I give larger doses, and at shorter intervals. In all cases of fever I give from three to six grs. of quinine with each dose of the Gelseminum. This tincture, given with the quinine, generally prevents the rush of blood to the brain, for it has its anti-spasmodic effect before the quinine effects the system. The whole nervous system will become relaxed *without the quinine*, and the fever will abate; but in a few hours the system will relapse again; hence it is always advantageous to use it in connection with the quinine.

The above course has never failed to break up any attack of remittent fever, in from six to ten hours, by first giving some mild cathartic. I have given it in some bad cases of Typhoid fever, where the liver was very torpid, and it failed to have the desired effect, till I gave a Cholagogue Cathartic, such as the Podophyllin or Leptandrin, and when this had its effect, I repeated the Quinine and Gelseminum, and they have never failed, under any circumstances, to produce convalescence. It frequently produces great relaxation of the whole nervous system, with dimness of vision, but no deleterious effects follow, for it passes off in a few hours; it should be given in all cases till it produces drowsiness and heaviness of the eyes, the patient being scarcely able to hold them open."

The Editor of the American Journal of Pharmacy, in the last No. of his valuable Journal for "regular physicians," gives a somewhat detailed account of the Gelseminum, in which he says: "Consider-

able attention has recently been turned to the Yellow Jessamine of our Southern States, from the accidental discovery of certain remarkable effects produced by it when taken internally. A planter of Mississippi having suffered much from a tedious attack of bilious fever, which resisted the usual medicines employed in such cases, requested one of his servants to obtain from the garden a certain root, from which he intended to prepare an infusion for drinking. By mistake, the person sent collected a different root, and administered the tea to his master, who, soon after taking it, was seized with a complete loss of muscular power; being, in fact, so completely prostrated as to be unable to move a limb or to raise the eyelids, yet he could hear, and could appreciate what was occurring around him. After some hours, during which his friends were watching him with much anxiety and little hope, he gradually recovered his muscular control, and was astonished to find that the fever had left him. Having ascertained from his servant what plant he had collected, he subsequently employed it successfully on his own plantation as well as among his neighbors. The history becoming known to a quackish physician, he prepared from it a nostrum called the "Electrical Febrifuge," in which it was disguised by oil of winter-green.—(Eclectic Dispensatory, page 186.)

"The Gelseminum is not noticed by Dr. Griffin in his Medical Botany, nor in the recent edition of the United States Dispensatory, and so far, appears to have been used chiefly by the "Eclectic" practitioners of Cincinnati and other parts of the Western States. * * *

"The alleged effects of this plant on the human system, taken in connection with its medico-botanical relations, mark it out as being probably one of the most valuable of our indigenous remedial agents, and render it well worthy of the investigation of regular physicians."

The above, and other references to medicines peculiar to the Eclectic School by the American Journal of Pharmacy, show a greater degree of common sense liberality, and courtesy than we are accustomed to see in Old School Journals. The time is past, for conservatives in medicine, to smother and kill every thing irregularly reformatory or new, by frowns and contempt. We are happy in seeing the number of those who dare to investigate Eclectic measures and medicines, rapidly multiplying; for no one is worthy of the name of physician, whose prejudice debars him from choosing the best from the new and old on every hand. L. C. D.

On the Influence of Poisons upon Animal Heat as a cause of Death.

BY BROWN SEQUARD, M. D., OF PARIS.

Prevost and Chossat, and after them M. Magendie, have ascertained that death occurs quickly in mammals when their temperature is notably diminished. My experiments confirm the correctness of that statement. The diminution of animal heat in mammals is so dangerous that, in one case, I have seen death take place in a rabbit

after a diminution of only 22° F. (12° Cs.) I have never observed any animal continuing to live when I had diminished its temperature more than 44° F. (24° 5 Cs.) I have found the law established by Chossat perfectly correct, according to which the diminution of animal heat necessary for killing is less and less, in proportion to the rapidity with which that diminution takes place.

It is very probable that in all cases where, in consequence either of disease or of a wound, or of poison, the temperature of man is diminished many degrees, his life is in danger from the very fact of that diminution. It is thus in cholera, in scleroma, in certain cases of palsy, in cases of great disturbance of the respiration, in fractures and luxations of the vertebral column, in the cervical, and even in the dorsal regions, in cases of profuse hemorrhage, and in many cases of poisoning, when death is not rapidly produced.

It has been long known that temperature is diminished in poisoned persons; and there are but few cases of poisoning on record in which it is not said that the patient was cold. Chossat has found a dog, into whose veins he had injected opium, had its temperature diminished from 105° to 62.6° F., (40.3° to 17° Cs.,) 22 hours after the injection. Brodie has found that many poisons act upon animal heat so as to diminish it considerably. Demarquay and Dumeril, junior, and later these two experimenters joined with Lecointre, have found the same thing as Brodie, in many toxic agents. I have made very numerous experiments on this subject, and some of their results have been published before the last papers of Demarquay, Dumeril and Lecointre.*

I have stated that many poisons, either injected in the veins or absorbed by the vessels of the skin or of the digestive canal, may diminish sufficiently the temperature of Guinea pigs and rabbits, to produce death. This occurs when the dose of poison is not large enough to kill in less than four or five hours. These poisons may kill only by their action upon animal heat. It may be so with opium, cyano-hydric acid, the cyanide of mercury, hyoscyamus, digitalis, belladonna, tobacco, euphorbia, camphor, alcohol, acetic, oxalic, sulphuric, azotic, chloro-hydric acids much diluted, and some oxalates.

Of course the action of these poisons is the greater the colder the atmosphere; but it is not always immediately so, and instead of diminishing the animal heat, may increase it for a time, especially when the temperature of the air is elevated.

I have discovered that a dose of one of these poisons sufficient to kill an animal when there is no obstacle to diminish its temperature, may be unable to destroy life when the temperature of the animal is sustained by artificial means to its normal degree, or not far from it. My experiments have been conducted as follows:

Equal doses of poisons were given, simultaneously, to two animals, as much like one another as possible. One of them was left in a room at a temperature of from 46° to 50° F., (8° to 10° Cs.,) and the other was kept not far from a chimney, in a place where the air was 75° to 86° F. (24° to 30° Cs.) The first was dead after a cer-

* See Gaz. Med de Paris, 1849, t. iv., p. 644.

tain number of hours, or sometimes one or two days, having its temperature much diminished. The other, on the contrary, had no perceptible diminution of its temperature, and was generally cured very soon. Therefore, when taken in certain doses, many poisons may kill only by their influence on animal heat, and physicians, in cases of poisoning, should try as much to prevent the diminution of temperature, as to expel the poison or act against it by an antidote, by pulmonary insufflation, or otherwise.

In experiments which I have made lately on the action of very pure digitaline, that had been prepared by M. Quevenne, the celebrated chemist, who has made such interesting and accurate researches on digitalis and the substances of which it is composed, I have found that this poison will also diminish temperature. I believe it is easy to explain the contradicton between Traube and Stannius, as regards the influence of digitalis on animal heat. When the atmosphere in which the animal is, is cold, then its temperature may be diminished by digitalis or digtaline, but when it is warm the diminution does not take place, or it is very small. But, of course, if the dose is sufficient to kill very quickly, then it is indifferent whether the atmosphere is cold or not, because there may be not time enough for the diminution of the temperature of the animal.

I have to relate another fact which I believe ought to be considered as analagous to the preceding. It is that kind of poisoning which occurs when a layer of oil, of varnish or of gelatin, is put on the skin of a warm-blooded animal. Death, then, is very probably produced by a substance unknown until now, and which is secreted by the skin. The layer of oil, varnish or gelatin preventing that secretion taking place, that unknown substance becomes accumulated in the blood, and then are produced the phenomena so well studied by MM. Fourcault, Becquerel, Breschet and Magendie. I have found that in such a case the animals may live, if the atmosphere in which they are kept is at a temperature inferior to 79° or 80° F. (26° or 27° Cs.) In these circumstances their temperature is not sensibly diminished, while it diminishes much when the atmosphere is cold. Therefore it is especially by their loss of warmth that animals are killed, when their bodies have been entirely covered with oil, varnish or gelatin.—*Med. Examiner.*

Extracts from a Letter from Prof. P. F. Eve.

LONDON, July 31st, 1852.

Hunterean Museum—Mr. Owen.—Of the three great men of the age, and I name them in their proper order, *Humbolt*, *Arago* and *Owen*, I have the high honor of making the acquaintance of the latter. I found him in his study in the Hunterean Museum, hard at work, but which he immediately left and accompanied me into the immense collection of comparative anatomy, physiological and pathological specimens, of which he is now the curator. The gymnoticus, or electric eel, is here beautifully delineated by Mr. Owen—we see first the natural fish, then its voltaic-like battery greatly magnified,

and the wires (nerves) for conveying the electricity. He mentioned to us a peculiarity in the common gar fish, which is, that of all its species it alone could shake its head. At the junction of the head and neck in the vertebræ, there is an orbicular articulation, or balance socket-joint, by which this movement could be made; so that Mr. O. humorously remarked, this the gar usually did, (shake his head,) when taken out of water, to signify he did not like it.

The celebrated case of *injured chest*, which I had seen before, was pointed out to us, as also another of more recent occurrence. The first is that of the body transfixed by a gig-shaft, the patient having lived *eleven* years after the accident. A gentlemen unaccustomed to horses, drove one up to the door of a stable, and wishing to unharness him, took off first the bridle. The animal seeing the vehicle behind him, became alarmed, and plunging into the open door, transfixed his master with the shaft. Seeing his imminent danger, two persons came to his relief, and drew him off the end of the shaft. He applied both hands to his chest and said: "I don't think the vitals are touched," and immediately fainted. The exact nature and extent of the injury were not ascertained until after the death of the patient, which took place eleven years after the accident. The foreign body passed from the left through to the right, taking the intercostal spaces of the 2d and 3d ribs of both sides. It fractured the 2d and 3d ribs of the left and the 2d rib of the right side, and also the sternum transversely. The tug of the shaft passed not only into the thorax, but penetrated the left lung, a portion of which is still adherent to the internal costal surface. Both lungs were transfixed. The life of the patient, as Mr. O. stated, was undoubtedly owing to the bluntness of the instrument causing the wound, making it valvular and preventing fatal hemorrhage. The anterior portion of the thorax of this patient as a wet preparation, and the shaft of the gig, are both preserved in this Museum, and are exhibited as a most extraordinary instance of recovery from extensive injury.

The second case of wound in the thorax occurred to a sailor in 1843. The end of an iron rod attached to a yard for hoisting sail in a vessel, in its fall struck this pationt, fractured his lower jaw, the clavicle of the left side, entered and then transfixed the thorax. The pericardium of the heart was wounded, (Mr Owen observing that he could see the heart pulsate,) and the rod coming out just below the left scapula, stuck into the deck of the ship. The chest of this man, there is reason to believe, was thus compressed down to about four inches. He is still in good health and follows his avocation at sea. The left lung was transfixed in this case.

These instances remind us of the somewhat similar cases which occurred in our Mexican war. I allude especially to the wounds of Gen. Shields, and a private from Memphis in one of the Tennessee regiments.

Breweries of London—Carbonic Acid Gas.—I accepted the invitation to inspect Barclay, Perkins & Co.'s brewery of porter and ale. It was established ninety years ago. The capital invested is $35,000,000. It covers 13 acres, near London Bridge, employs 400

men and 160 horses, and an engine of 40 horse power. 2000 barrels of fermented drink are turned out per day. The Thames water is preferred—an artesian well of 300 feet depth gives an abundant supply, but it is too *hard* for use. But the medical point is the great quantity of *carbonic acid gas* generated in the manufacture of these compound, and I may add *confounded* drinks. As soon as I entered the premises, my eyes began to smart, and I came home to suffer the whole afternoon and evening from them. The phenomenon which attracted the attention of Dr. Black fifty years ago, is here manifested on a large scale. The gas, after filling the immense vats, pours over the edges upon the floors, and descending into the lower parts of the building, has extinguished life in several instances. This mysterious agent is of course invisible, and insensible, too, as you stand up higher than the vats; but bring your nose to the edge, and you are made to rebound by the pungency of the odor. Dip your hat into the vat, bring it out on a level, and it apparently contains nothing but atmospheric air; but turn it then over your face, and you are instantly made sensible that it contained another æriform fluid, which will also extinguish all flames. How soon the mystery of these phenomena would cease, were this gas only colored!

The Comparative Estimate of Life in the Old and New World.—This strikes every American. It is said that not an accident occurred at the exhibition in the crystal palace last year, in London. How perfect must have been the arrangements which permitted the commingling of nearly 100,000 strangers a day, in a very limited space, for months together, without one serious result to human life. But everywhere in France, Germany and Great Britain, every precaution seems to be exercised. It is not simply, "*look out for the engine when the whistle blows,*" but you shan't go in the way of it; for bars are put up on the rail-roads as the trains pass. And, then, every death, every accident, is most thoroughly investigated; the coroner, as he always should be, is an educated medical man, and the guilty are promptly punished. In no country is traveling so well regulated as in France. While property is well secured by the laws of the United States, life itself, it must be acknowledged, is there too often sacrificed most recklessly. It is high time some means should be adopted to check the impatient career of young America. The strong arm of the law imposed by enlightened public opinion should be made to bear upon this subject throughout our country, but especially in the great West.

Increase of Liberal Sentiments in Europe, particularly in England.—This is gratifying to every American. During this, my fourth, visit to the Old World, this subject has been quite apparent. I have heard one of the editors of the London Lancet maintain the opinion, that it was of no importance where the candidate for the honors of profession obtained his medical knowledge, so he possessed it. No special hospital, no favorite professor, no fashionable school conferred it, said he, but every man must be tried by his own merits. This you will admit, as I did, is good republican doctrine. On every side we behold these sentiments becoming more prevalent. Checked

and the wires (nerves) for conveying the electricity. He mentioned to us a peculiarity in the common gar fish, which is, that of all its species it alone could shake its head. At the junction of the head and neck in the vertebræ, there is an orbicular articulation, or balance socket-joint, by which this movement could be made; so that Mr. O. humorously remarked, this the gar usually did, (shake his head,) when taken out of water, to signify he did not like it.

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they may be at present in France, but the world is improving, growing wiser, and man's inhumanity to man gradually ceasing, to be known, we hope soon, no more.

PAUL F. EVE.
Nash. Jour. of Med. and Surg.

Profuse Salivation and Sloughing, Caused by Three Small Doses of Mercury

BY ROBERT HARPER, M. R. C. S., L. S. A., LONDON.

W. W———, aged eleven years, a delicate boy, was attacked, in the early part of last month (November,) with fever, and for which he was treated in the usual manner, namely, salines, antimonials, &c., followed by wine and other support, and under which he greatly improved. The bowels, however, being in a torpid state, mild aperients, with mercury and chalk, were administered, when required. Altogether only three doses of this mercurial were given, one of six grains on the 14th, a similar dose on the 17th, and four grains on the 20th; but most profuse salivation followed, the salivary glands and features becoming swolen to an enormous size, the saliva flowing constantly away, and the breath having the fœtid mercurial odor. Port wine, arrowroot, good beef-tea, in fact all the support that could be got down, was given, and lotions employed to the mouth; but nothing would stop its fearful ravages: sloughing commenced in both cheeks, and rapidly extended through them; that on the right cheek was not larger than a shilling, but on the left side it extended from one-third across the lips backwards to the edge of the great masseter muscle, and from the malar bone to the lower edge of the inferior maxilla; it presented a frightful appearance, the whole of the teeth on that side being exposed. Everything that could suggest itself was done for the poor boy, but all was of no avail, and he died four days after the commencement of the sloughing.—*London Lancet.*

Dr. James Hamilton, F. R. C. P., and Prof. of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh, says, "it is universally acknowledged, that although the marked effects of mercury may be induced very suddenly, and by very small quantities of the medicine, in certain constitutions, *there are no marks by which such peculiarities of habit can be distinguished, and there is no method of arresting their progress.*" The above case is another one of the thousands which go to prove the truth of the assertion. It is undoubtedly true; and are those to be counted in the *vanguard of the army,* who have not yet found it out? Under the very prevalent use of Mercury as a medicine, is it surprising that the public confidence in the medical profession is seriously shaken, and that much of the *Science* is regarded but "a beautiful system of guessing?"

L. C. D.

Dr. S. P. Hullihen's New Method of Filling Teeth Over Exposed Nerves.

COMMUNICATED BY E. B. GARDETTE, M. D.

Among the serious difficulties that have belonged to surgical operations for the preservation of the teeth, is that of successfully filling cavities formed by disease, after they have penetrated to the internal or natural cavity, and exposed the nerve.

Various expedients have been resorted to at different periods in the history and progress of the profession, to overcome this difficulty —such as, capping the nerve with a metallic plate, destroying it by means of the actual cautery, or by the application of caustics, and the entire extirpation of the nerve to the extremity of the fang.—Each and all of these plans have had their trial and preference with more or less success in different hands, and oftner in very *indifferent* ones ; but no candid and intelligent operator, I think, has regarded any of these modes of proceeding *unobjectionable*,' whether viewed in reference to the results and advantages of the operation to the patient, or the surgical principles involved, and which the true surgeon should never lose sight of in his efforts to overcome disease.

I therefore propose to describe briefly the operation of Dr. Hullihen, of Wheeling, Va., or, in other words, his mode of treating a tooth, where the decay has reached the nerve—a mode which has proved most singularly successful in his own able hands for a number of years past, and one that, having myself fully tested for more than a year, I now adopt in my own practice in all cases where the condition of the tooth renders it proper.

After the removal of the diseased parts from a tooth has been accomplished, making it apparent that the nerve is exposed, the operator will proceed to perforate the fang into its natural or nerve-cavity, through the gum and outer plate of the alveolar process; the perforation to commence about a line or a line and a half from the free edge of the gum, and to be in size that of a small knitting-needle.—The opening should be made with a view of doing no other violence to the nerve than that of opening its blood-vessels, which may be at once known by the flow of arterial blood. The cavity in the tooth, formed by decay, may then be immediately filled, without the least fear of pain or ill consequences of any kind arising from the pressure of the plug upon the nerve.

The physiological change effected by this operation upon the nerve, may not as yet, perhaps, be satisfactorily explained. That the operation prevents subsequent pain and inflammation in the nerve, and therefore preserves the vitality and color of the tooth, under circumstances which no other known course of treatment can effect, all experience thus far proves perfectly conclusive ; and upon this simple fact the merits of the operation are now urged, and laid before the medical profession.

This original mode of treating an exposed nerve, has, with the consent of Dr. Hullihen, been communicated to the "American Society of Dental Surgeons," at their recent annual meeting at Newport

R. I., by Dr. C. O. Cone, Dentist, of Baltimore; but never having myself been a member of that Society, I trust it is no self-conceit of the comparative importance of my professional opinions that I now perform this agreeable act of personal friendship through a medical journal.

With the characteristic modesty of genius, Dr. Hullihen would, I well know, forbid any attempt to express my sense of the benefits he has conferred upon the profession and those who need its relief; and yet as one of those who appreciate the difficulties belonging to the class of operations under consideration, I must regard the discovery of Dr. Hullihen as among the most valuable improvements in dental surgery.—*Medical Examiner.*

On the Treatment of Gonorrhœa.

BY P. NIDDRIE, M. D., F. R. C. P., EDIN.

The Lancet of a recent date contains the report of a discussion at the Medical Society, on gonorrhœa, in which a speaker said "he questioned how far the cures in cases of gonorrhœa were due to remedies. Time alone would cure." As this seems to be the view of more than one member of the profession, I shall shortly state what I have found to be a safe and effectual mode of treatment, if strictly followed. In common with most men of some standing in the profession, I have had considerable experience in the treatment of gonorrhœa, and have arrived at the conviction that, in a vast majority of cases, the disease may be safely and effectually cured, generally in three days, and almost always within a week. During the first day, a saline purge, such as a Seidlitz powder, with half an ounce of sulphate of magnesia, is to be given; recumbent rest enjoined; weak linseed tea, with a little nitrate or bitartrate of potash, used as a common drink; and ordinarily pure cold water used as an injection twice in every half hour. During the second day, the same drink to be used, and quiet observed, but a solution of sulphate of zinc, two grains to the ounce, is to be substituted for the cold water, and used twice every half hour during the day. On the third day the irritation and discharge will probably have gone, and it will not be necessary to enforce rest so strictly, but the drink and injection must be used as on the preceding days. These remedies are commonly in use, but their efficacy depends on the mode in which they are applied; and if this method is strictly followed, few unsuccessful cases will occur.

Doubtless there are cases protracted for weeks or even months, but such patients fancy it is too irksome to lie down all day, and it is too much bother to use the injections so often, and they expect to be cured without trouble or restraint. Indeed, there is always difficulty to get the patients to use the injections so frequently and perseveringly as is necessary, but on this the success of the treatment mainly depends. It occasionally happens that on the second day the swelling of the urethral membrane, its irritation and its discharge are not

sufficiently allayed, and it is necessary to continue the cold water injections until the third day. More frequently it is necessary to use the sulphate of zinc solution longer than two days, for it must be used at least a day after the discharge has stopped; but it will rarely happen that the whole period of treatment will extend to a week.

Whether or not gonorrhœa is a specific disease, there unquestionably exists in it redness, swelling, heat and pain—that is inflammation—terminating in suppuration; and the antiphlogistic means indicated seem to me a rational treatment of such a state of the parts. But if the inflammatory action only be subdued, disordered action continues in the form of gleet, and it becomes necessary to change the action of the mucous membrane by a slightly stimulating injection of sulphate of zinc. Those of the profession who think the above treatment worth a trial, will perhaps state the result through the medium of the Lancet.—*London Lancet.*

Solution of Shellac.

The costliness of the solution of gun cotton and of gutta percha, renders it desirable to have a cheaper article that it may be used as a substitute in cases which require the consumption of a large quantity of such plastic materials. A solution of shellac in alcohol has therefore been proposed for this purpose. This may be prepared by adding successively small bits of shellac to the alcohol of commerce until enough be dissolved to make a mucilaginous solution.

Some of the French practitioners having attributed to collodion extraordinary antiphlogistic properties when applied over affected joints and other inflammatory affections, even more deeply seated, I determined to try, during the last winter, the shellac solution in an old case of Rheumatism, in which most of the joints of the extremities were being successively invaded. The toes, ankles, knees, fingers, wrist and elbows were nearly all alternately implicated—becoming very painful and rapidly swelling, so as to be almost double in size in a day or two. I furnished the patient a bottle of the shellac solution and ordered it to be painted over and around the joint as soon as it would commence to be painful, and to repeat the application several times a day until a thick coating remained, after which it might be applied only once a day. Under this treatment I was gratified to find that the patient could, in a few hours, arrest the pain and prevent the swelling of the joints to which he made the application. He stated that he never had anything give him such prompt and effectual relief, although he had been suffering such attacks every winter for the last ten years. One joint or another continued to annoy him for a month, during all of which time he resorted to the shellac with the same success.

This is the only case in which I have tried this solution.—*Trans. Med. Society, State Georgia*, 1852.

The Cravat.

On the propriety of covering the neck, in men, the ancients entertained very different ideas from those which prevail at the present day. The Romans, in particular, left this part of the body uncovered, excepting in inclement weather, when the toga was held around the throat with the hand. They knew nothing of the modern cravat; though under certain circumstances of disease, or in coming out of the warm bath, they were in the habit of wearing upon the neck the *focale*—a kind of collar formed of silk, cotton, or wool. This however, we learn from Quintilian, it was considered effeminate to make use of in public, excepting under the same circumstances in which a covering to the head and legs was permissible.

"Palliolum sicut fascias et focalia excusare potest valetudo."

The question as to grace and health, upon this point, will probably be decided in favor of the Romans. That the cravat by no means contributes to the beauty of the figure, will be confessed by every individual of taste, and hence the best masters in sculpture and painting, endeavor, whenever it is possible, to free the neck from it in their busts and portraits.

That it is not essential to health, even in our uncertain climate, is also evinced by the fact, that in the female sex, those parts of the neck and throat which in a man are enveloped with so much care by numerous folds of muslin or cambric, are left uncovered with impunity during all seasons: on the contrary, the custom of covering the neck too warmly, it is more than probable, is not unfrequently the cause of disease.

We do not object to a light and loose cravat, particularly in winter; we should even recommend its use, did the laws in regard to dress emanate from the study of the physician, instead of the shopboard of the tailor or the saloon of some fashionable milliner: as conservators of health we may, however, be permitted to say, that the constant use of a cravat, too voluminous or composed of too thick materials, renders the neck peculiarly liable to the impression of slight degrees of cold: we believe that to this cause are to be referred many inflammatory affections of the throat. There are indeed few individuals accustomed to wear constantly the cravat now in fashion, who can throw it aside for an hour or two, even in summer, without contracting some degree of hoarseness, and experiencing some uneasiness in the throat; and if exposed to a draught of air, or in the evening, a decided quinsy is often the result.

Around the neck are situated many large bloodvessels connected with the brain, as well as other important organs, which cannot be compressed without injurious consequences. So long as the cravat is loose and light, no inconvenience is experienced; but when it is made to embrace the neck with the grasp of a halter, as was a short time since, and is now, too much the custom, the free return of the blood from the head is impeded; the face becomes red and turgid; and the martyr to fashion experiences pain and an overfulness of the head, without suspecting for a moment, "the source from which his

ills arise." When the body is thrown into exertion with the throat thus begirt, the evil is augmented; and in those of full habits, dangerous affections of the head are the consequeuce. Vertigo; swoooning; violent bleedings from the nose, difficult to arrest; and even apoplexy, —are said to have resulted from this cause alone.

A highly respectable physician of this city informed us not long since, that several young gentlemen have come under his care, affected with very distressing and almost constant pain of the head and eyes. Finding that in every instance the cravat was drawn too tightly round the neck, he directed it to be worn in the future more loosely: little else was required to relieve them of their complaints.

Percy, a French surgeon of great celebrity, observes, that most of the fashions in dress have been invented to conceal some weakness or deformity. "That of enormous cravats originated from similar motives. It was borrowed by the French from the English, who introduced it in order to conceal the hideous and disgusting scars left upon their necks by the scrofula, a disease endemic and hereditary among the latter: and, strange to say, this fashion too often occasioned in the French, who had the folly to adopt it, scars equally unsightly—the consequence of the inflammations and ulceration in the glands of the neck to which it gave rise."

During all exertions of the body, it is important that the neck be left free from compression. The cravat should be loosened, also, when we are engaged in reading, writing, or profound study; and invariably should it be removed, together with all ligatures from every part of the body, on retiring to sleep—whether at night, or during the day; much evil has been occasioned by a neglect of such precaution.

A great deal more might be said in regard to this subject. We might hint to the singer and public speaker, the injury their voices sustain by a cravat of too great bulk, or one so tightly drawn as to compress the throat and windpipe,—we might warn the young of the danger, when heated by exercise, of throwing off the accustomed covering of the neck,—and a word might be said upon each of those diseases, the presence of which renders the use of a large and tight cravat altogether inadmissible; but we refrain; the goddess of fashion reigns with too despotic a sway, to allow her mandates to be interfered with, from mere considerations of comfort or of prudence. —*Journal of Health.*

Microscopic Examination of Relaxed Uvula.

BY T. INMAN, M. D.,

Lecturer on Materia, Medica, Therapeutics and Medical Jurisprudence, etc.

A gentleman, whose father had suffered from a similar affection, was complaining of a cough for some weeks, apparently arising from relaxation of the uvula (*palate.*)

On examing this appendage during an attempt at deglutition, the upper part was seen to contract firmly, leaving the lower part perfectly smooth and unchanged. It seemed thickened, but its color

Ice as a Local Anæsthetic.

BY W. A. BERRY, M. D., WASHINGTON, D. C.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I propose to make known to the many readers of your valuable journal, the application of a new local anæsthetic agent, which probably is not familiar to a large majority of them. This agent is applicable to but a very limited part of the frame, but its efficiency is such as to cause its use desirable in all like cases. I refer to the local anæsthetic effect of ice in the removal of the nails of the toes or fingers. This most painful operation is disarmed of all its terrors by this simple means, and the patient witnesses it with as much composure as his operator. The agent was first made use of in the wards of M. Velpeau, during the past summer, in Paris, by one of his internes, and afterwards applied by himself in a number of cases. The ice is powdered finely and mixed with a sufficient quantity of salt; next enveloped in a thin cloth, and the two phalanges of the great toe or thumb enveloped in it; the application should not be continued over five or six minutes, this time being sufficient to produce the most desirable anæsthesia. M. Velpeau proceeds with the operation in the following manner: Immediately upon removing the ice, the nail is divided in its lengths with a common sized bistoury, from its extremity to the root, then seizing each half successively with a strong forceps, it is removed with a moderate *jerk*. The frequent necessity for the performance of this operation, and the great pain attending it when removed under other circumstances, is sufficient to cause its universal application by the profession. M. Velpeau directs the application of compresses of cold water to the part during the first twenty-four hours; and the simple cerate dressing for a few days, is all that is required.

It may be objected that the reaction under the application is such as to prevent its use; I will simply say, that of the six patients that I saw operated upon by M. Velpeau, no such accident occurred to any one of them; and to the one case in which we applied it a few days since, (and which has suggested this communication,) we have reason to believe that the agent is free from any unhappy results.

The simplicity and efficacy of this piece of minor surgery, and the so frequent necessity of some surgical interference in these cases has induced me to send you this communication.—*Med. Examiner.*

Some Facts regarding the State of the Spleen in Intermittent Fever.

From observations in 153 post mortem examinations, Dr. ROCHARD concludes that—1. The spleen is not the starting point of intermittent fevers. Like all internal organs, it may be congested; and very often its volume, instead of being enlarged, is notably diminished.

2. The frequent increase in size of the spleen is due to its spongy tissue permitting it to become more gorged with blood, under the influence of febrile congestion.

3. Sulphate of quinine does not always diminish the size of a congested spleen.

4. The individual varieties which the size of the spleen presents in man or in animals, in health or in disease, prevents us from appreciating in an exact manner the influence of sulphate of quinine or chloride of sodium in diminishing its volume.

5. Antiperiodic remedies arrest the febrile attacks, not by diminishing the size of the spleen, but by modifying, in an especial manner, the economy in general. This modification brings about a state of reactionary equilibrium, under which the miasmatic influence is eliminated from the body.—*Lond. Jour. Med.*

A Singular Case of Animal Graft.

BY BROWN SEQUARD, M. D., OF PARIS.

Every one knows the experiments by which the cock's spurs, or many other textures, have been grafted on the body of an animal, and especially on a cock's comb. I have succeeded in grafting the tail of a young cat on a cock's comb. I performed this experiment in France, in 1850,

After having divided the tail of a young cat, I made a longitudinal incision on a cock's comb, and I united these two parts one to the other, by stitching the cut surface of the cat's tail to the cut surface of the cock's comb. The skin of the cat's tail had been turned a little over itself, so that its internal surface was in contiguity with the cut surface of the cock's comb. Eight days after, I punctured the skin of the tail at a distance from the cock's comb, and blood escaped, so that it was evident that circulation was already established. The tail had been cold during all the day of the operation, but it became warmer gradually from the second day. The union appeared much advanced on the third or fourth day. The tail was entirely fixed on the eighth day.

Unfortunately, on eleventh day, the cock had a fight with another cock, and the cat's tail was torn from the ground on which it had been fixed. I was thus deprived of the opportunity of knowing what transformations should have taken place in the tail. By examining it, I found that all its tissues were fresh, and that its blood-vessels contained blood.—*Med. Examiner.*

Antimony.

"All the observations that I have had opportunity to make, have invariably contributed to prove that *antimony* is *one* of the worst agents that can possibly be employed in phthisis pulmonalis. Its operation is the more unfavorable because it is slow and insidious, and therefore liable to be overlooked, or referred to the natural progress of the disease."—*Prof. Tully, of New-Haven.*

EDITORIAL.

A Glimpse at Homœopathy.

It has been often inquired of us: What are your views of Homœopathy? What relations do you sustain, both to the system and its advocates? Is the belief and policy of the Eclectic School of Medicine every way hostile to the principles of the Homœopathic system? It seems but just, that we should now and then present our readers with our convictions respecting important discordant theories and opinions, that are every where dividing and convulsing the medical world. Upon many of the subjects in dispute among medical writers we have already spoken freely, as opportunity afforded. Of Homœopathy we have said little, not, however, that our opinion of its truthfulness and value has been unsettled, or that we have been reluctant to present it to the world.

We are far from being Homœopathic in our faith and practice.—Yet, both for Homœopathy, as a contribution to Medical Science, and for its enlightened and honest advocates, we entertain sincere regard. The system is entitled to credit for its investigations in therapeutics; for the discovery of a few, and the new application of many valuable remedies; for having called the attention of physicians of all Schools more fully to the great reliance that may be placed, in all diseases, upon the *vis medicatrix naturæ;* for having made more prominent as a curative resource, the influence of the mind, exercised through the voluntary and emotional systems, over diseased action; for having better established the worth of strict dietetic regimen; and also, for exposing much of the unsafe medication of the Old School. All of this must be acknowledged for Homœopathy; and in doing this, its mission has been great and salutary. Through the good connected with it, there is no doubt, but many lives have been saved, and possibly the aggregate of mortality somewhat lessened in the countries where it has been practiced.

The spirit, as manifested by Hooker and many other exposers of the fallacies of Homœopathy, which would overlook the good connected with the practice of exclusive globulism, that cannot acknowledge the principle *similia similibus curanter* as being applicable in any case, is very unjust, and cannot be too strongly condemned.

The use of appreciable quantities of medicine upon the Homœopathic principle, of *like curing like*, is applicable to many diseased conditions. Cures are daily wrought by Allopathic, Thomsonian and all classes of Physicians not exclusively Homœopathic in their faith, upon the principle embodied in the Homœopathic dogma. Giving emetics of lobelia or ipecac for nausea and vomiting ; the application of turpentine and other stimulants, or artificial heat for burns ; the administration of cathartics for dysentery and diarrhœa, &c., &c., are very familiar measures of cure, and illustrate the Homœopathic principle.

Thus we may admit for Homœopathy, features which give it claim for some consideration and merit, without endorsing or looking with the least favor upon their system of globulism, which discards all rigorous potential doses of medicine, and without making Hahnemann a prophet, and the principle, *similia similibus curantur*, an exclusive and universal dogma. The illiberality, and narrowness of wholesome sentiment, characteristic of the disciples of Hahnemann, which will not allow them to recognize anything valuable or correct but their "*universal law*," and nothing safe but "*dynamic medicines*," "highly potentized" by "shakes" and "triturations," is most despisable. The demand on their part that all other principles of cure must be summarily banished from the Temple of Esculapius; that freedom of thought and inquiry must be surrendered ; that nothing shall be considered efficient but what acts in accordance with the "*universal law*," and the predetermined theory of their great master, is no less intolerable than such tom-fooleries as the "psoric origin" and "tendencies" of disease, and the specific action of the infinitesimally "medicated" (?) globules of sugar of milk. We cannot comprehend how men of intellectual and sound minds, after having examined critically the speculative abstractions in support of the system, can swallow down so easily its various absurdities, hallucinations and mysticisms, and consent to be known as exclusive Homœopathic physicians. And no less difficult is it, for us to understand how intelligent and liberal physicians, can conscientiously condemn *in toto*, its principles and influence, as wholly unsound and destructive in their tendency.

The following remarks of the Editor of the American Journal of Medical Sciences (No. xlvii. p. 192,) seem fully appropos :

"Natural truth is no more to be pressed into the artificial formulæ of scientific systems, than the varied, graceful, and ever-changing types of living beings can be represented by mathematical diagrams. Science is not in systems, but systems are artificial enclosures in the field of science. Truth lies without as well as within them. The pretension of Hahnemann to limit the power of medicine in curing

disease to a certain, and that rather an exceptional mode of action, was neither more nor less than has been done by medical philosophers from Galen to Liebig. Had he done no more than this, he might have effected real good by enlarging the limits of our knowledge.—But when he put forward as essential parts of his system the insane, absurd, and wicked doctrines of infinitesimals and psora, the man of science disappeared behind the mask of the charlatan, and the medical profession instinctively shrank from all communion with a convicted imposter. In this case, as in that of a still more famous quack, there is no reason why we should not accept what may be true in the teachings of Hahnemann, as we have adopted what was true in the ravings of Paracelsus. Perhaps, too, the best antidote to the gross extravagances of the latter is to be found even in the subtle and shadowy unrealities of the former. The question, the capital, the vital question is, *what* will cure disease? Once settled, we may inquire, *how* is disease cured? Till the former question is decided, the latter is a conflict about systems, a mere war of words, never ending, still beginning, and apparently as far from a solution now as it was two thousand years ago. If the facts of themselves really admit of being arranged in two classes, according to the likeness or unlikeness of the natural effects of remedies to the diseases they cure, science can but gain by this truth being known. Its value would be none the less, because a portion of it formed part of the system of a notorious charlatan of the nineteenth century. Posterity would smile at its rejection, upon that ground, by a generation that piques itself upon being philosophical.

"But, admitting the occasional application of *similia similibus* to the phenomena of therapeutics, we must be careful lest the doctrine seduce us into a too general application of it, lest we elevate the exception to the dignity of a rule. Even as a matter of medical faith, it were well for this point to be clearly apprehended. Otherwise the weak-minded might be seduced into believing a revolting heresy, and the weak in conscience might find in our restricted and philosophical assent to a theory, an excuse for all the deceit and crime which are in practice associated with subscription to the theory of its exclusive partizans."

L. C. D.

Old School Liberality, and New School Hunkerism.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 392.

Other instances of a growing spirit of progress and liberality in the fraternity of our Allopathic brethren, may be adduced. Witness the many excellent articles, dictated by a more cautious, comprehensive and humane philosophy, which are constantly appearing in their Journals. The article on the "Special Treatment of Consumption," in our September number, is a fair sample of this class. It contained, as it appeared originally in the "Edinburgh Medical Journal," no

recommendation in the way of remedies, to which the most scrupulous Reformer could take exception, except that in a solitary instance the use of opium was mentioned, though without any direct sanction, —a portion, however, which we took the liberty to expunge. When a disease so complicated, grave and painful in its nature, is admitted to be best managed throughout its whole course by purely *hygienic* and (comparatively) *sanative* remedies, we certainly have little room left so far, for criticism.

The "American Journal of Pharmacy" in a recent number, furnishes several allusions to indigenous remedies, and their *active principles*, introduced to the notice of the profession by the different branches of the Reformed practice in our country, and especially by the Eclectics. The Journal of Pharmacy is the first authority on the subject of which it treats, in our country; and we mention the fact, not because it seems complimentary to the new practice, (for a sense of being in the right is a satisfaction above all compliments,) but because it shows a long stride in professional liberality among Allopathists, and is a cheering omen for the future. We might add that the impression so long fostered, or at least ostensibly put forward, by Old School physicians, that all Reformed Practitioners were, without exception, ignoramuses, quacks, and, by implication, dishonest and dangerous persons in society, is fast being done away. In a score of ways our opponents indicate a growing willingness to fraternize and cooperate with us. I may add that the credit of this change is clearly due to the growing character of our Schools, and the unconquerable energy, and manifest success, of our practitioners; but undoubtedly a spirit of still greater *independence*, and a more present sense of our *equality, as men and as members of a worthy profession*, would not be lost upon our cause, or prove an inefficient aid in our advancement. I mean, we could be more proud, and not be hurt by it; and we could see to getting together more to be proud of, with just as little risk of damage!

I am sorry to detract from the credit of liberality thus far given to the Allopathic fraternity. But a very harsh feature, and one which will mar much of its beauty, belongs in the picture; and it must be introduced. The liberality we have seen is the sentiment of their authors and some others,—philosophical men, who delight more in truth than in party tactics,—and generally, not the characteristic of corporate bodies, but of individuals. Allopathic views of medical science and practice, are becoming liberalized; but Allopathic *legislation* lags shamefully in the rear. Our antagonists begin to recog-

nize our manhood in the street, in the public assemblage, and even at the sick bed ; but in legislative halls, and in their "Committees on Medical Colleges," and such like, we see well-bred, "regular" representatives of the class,—men well "posted" on all matters of medical ethics and questions of human rights,—coolly coming forward and denying that same manhood, and by legal (?) enactments, or a refusal to legislate at all, perpetuating the most invidious distinctions, and the most unjust and pernicious regulations in society.

Allopathists are guilty of an injustice in this, for which no amount of mere courtesy can at all atone ; and could they but see it, they voluntarily make themselves largely beholden to us for a commodity seldom to be coveted—I mean Charity! But this state of things *must* change,—it must change soon—and this they cannot fail to have already perceived. We will, however, leave this unwelcome topic for the time, with the expression of a hope that our Allopathic brethren, if they cannot furnish us with an exception to the rule that "corporate bodies have no souls," will at least soon consent to give due weight to the demands of public opinion, and permit the enjoyment of equal opportunities and rights by those who honestly differ with them in opinion. For we cannot fail to perceive that the necessity of a labored attempt to prove that a given system is becoming liberalized, is virtually a strong evidence of general illiberality ; and I apprehend the thinking mind will not pronounce the present an exception to the principle.

So, when we speak of New School illiberality and conservatism in minor points, as things to be deplored,—as blemishes that mar the otherwise fair proportions of a great system,—we virtually claim that the true and predominating spirit of that system is liberal and progressive ; and this, I believe, will be also admitted by the candid seeker after truth. The New School, or Schools of medical practice, at the present, are preeminently liberal. Eclectic physicians are not anxious to deprive their Allopathic competitors of their Colleges, of the legal means of their support, or their facilities for instruction.—They do not wish to place them under restrictions, to subject them to unequal legislation, nor to dictate the theories or opinions they may hold. Whatever may be the spirit of individuals, we hazard nothing in asserting this of the class. They would not willingly have their opponents less favored in point of science, honest reputation, or prosperity. All history shows that in this generosity they stand alone.—But Truth and Right are always generous ; not, as has been so uncomplimentarily suggested, because they can afford it, but because

the contrary course would be foreign to their nature, and impossible.

Medical Reform is not, however, as has been already implied, either purely liberal, or progressive. That it is not, is no doubt owing to the misconceptions of individuals as to what is medical truth, and what is true progress ; for the principles themselves are not subject to any adulteration of error.

If illiberality and unprogressiveness, or Hunkerism, as it has been rather unpoetically termed, is chargeable upon New School physicians, in what particulars is it so? It will be in place here to speak especially of that large body of Reformers known by the various titles of Thomsonians, Botanics, Physopathists and Eclectics. Among these, I may be allowed to say, we shall be often struck with the exhibition of that species of hunkerism which grows out of a *tenacity for certain leaders*. Who does not know that, but a few years ago, the simple spoken *name* of a certain great Reformer was the highest argument to which his *followers* could resort ; or that they did constantly reiterate this argument, and with the greatest satisfaction? There is another great Reformer, for whose name a similar blind reverence is often manifested. Besides these two illustrious *originals*, there are many lesser lights in all the divisions of the Reformed practice whose glare unfortunately obscures almost all truth that may happen to be radiated from any other quarter. Is it quite certain that the homage done to Beach, Morrow, Thomson, Curtis, and others is never excessive?—*that the luminaries never blind their votaries?* that these names have never been the means of perpetuating unfortunate divisions among brethren engaged in a common cause? If this is not quite certain, it behooves us all to look away from the luminaries for a while,—to contemplate pure truth for a season,—and to hope that we may return with a better capacity for measuring the claims of individuals, and the good of Science and the human race.

But again, we observe among Reformers, too often, another species of hunkerism, growing out of a *tenacity for certain names*. It may, indeed, be safely said, that the naming of a young system is the hardest duty that devolves on the parent or guardian to perform. The naming of a king's son bears no comparison to it. As many wise men are consulted, and the list of vocables is as thoroughly rummaged in the one case, perhaps, as in the other. But in the latter instance we have only to hit upon the name which, for euphony, or augustness, or association, best pleases the father's ear ; while in the former, we must have that which best conveys all of a complex idea, and which conveys the least of anything foreign to that idea. And here

the candid question may be allowed, whether any single distinctive name of any class of Medical Reformers can be mentioned, to which objections, and apparently sound ones, cannot be raised? To leave the system now particularly under consideration, all know how faulty are all the terms Hydropathy, Hydriatics, and so on. They all express too little for the idea. The Reader can run over the various names proposed among Reformers and see how the matter stands there. "But," says one, "let us then find the least objectionable name, and adopt that." And this thing has been in progress for years in our country. Convention has tread on the heels of convention; and with what result? It has rather increased than diminished the divisions in our ranks. It has certainly done little that can be seen, towards healing the breaches that exist. And while these breaches do exist, it needs but half an eye to see that among us the interests of Truth and Progress *must* often be sacrificed to party lines and preferences; and the strength of the laborers must be lost to a great extent in counteracting the efforts of each other. What is the remedy for this state of things? The reality is undeniable, and deeply to be deplored. Who will point us a remedy?

There is still another species of hunkerism, but too prevalent it is, a *stickling for certain tenets, or dogmas.* This is not the least unfortunate source of dissension and opposition in our ranks; but neither is it generally an original source. It commonly depends on the two before mentioned. It is because we have consented blindly to revere leaders, and blindly to cling to names, that we come, in the next place, to adopting and clinging to whatever may be associated with those leaders and names. If this is not so, how shall we account for the fact that so many physicians whose large practice affords them the best opportunities for witnessing disease in all its phases, and in all stages, and who are themselves men of good observing powers and good sense, are still found to adopt and adhere to such nonsensical, unphilosophical, and unnatural dogmas as that "Fever and Inflammation, (and some even add, Irritation,) are the *same thing,*" and that those states of the system, for which they are every day administering medicines, "are not Diseases?" Or how shall we account for the fact that other physicians, equally sensible on other subjects, are found putting together into their medical system two things so utterly incongruous and incompatible, as that "none but *purely sanative agencies* are to be employed in treating Disease," and that "Opium, Henbane, Copper, Lead, and similar agents, are suitable means of cure?" Who that reflects a moment but will decide that

the Fever-doctrine is a mere quibble,—a play of words,—and that the notion of Opium, &c., is wholly irreconcilable with that of *purely sanative* medicines? Who does not perceive that, in the latter instance, one of the two dogmas *must* be abandoned? Either it is not sanative medicines only we are to rely on, but the *safest agents that will cure*, or else the articles named, and hosts of others, must be ousted at one sweep from our "medicine-cases," and our materia medica! Which alternative have all practically followed? Evidently *not the latter!*

But men are not often brought by the earnest and unbiased exercise of their own reason, into such incongruities and fallacies as I have referred to above. It is only, I will venture to say, by following "leaders" too strictly, or by preferring "names" to a comprehensive philosophy, that we become entangled in such blunders.

In conclusion, what of practical benefit does this review of the medical world promise us? The thickening rays of liberality among our opponents afford us large ground for hope and encouragement. But we discover hunkerism contaminating our own theories, practices, and efforts. This hunkerism cannot exist in any system without retarding its advancement, and that, just in proportion to the magnitude and number of the errors embraced. May not something be accomplished towards a more efficient organization, and a more rapid spread of our principles, by a careful consideration of the thoughts here advanced? R.

A Few Words to our Friends.

On account of numerous other duties, I have only time in this number of the Journal to write a short article. My friends will rejoice with me that a complete *union* has been harmoniously effected, between the three heretofore existing Reformed Medical Colleges of the North and East, and with me will take new courage, and put forth new zeal and energy to sustain and build up the existing ones. The prosperity of the cause in the North and East now depends on two things. 1st. A good Board of Professors, with a College affording all necessary facilities, to impart a good practical medical education to students. And 2d. A large number of intellectual and capable students, to attend the present and coming courses of lectures.

The first requisite, I think all will readily acknowledge, is already attained; and for the second we must look to physicians individually, everywhere. It seems to me that there is not a physician anywhere, who cannot, with suitable effort, if he loves the cause of Scientific Medical Reform, influence at least *one student*, or more, to come here and qualify himself thoroughly.

We all believe that the world now NEEDS a large number of well-educated physicians, not only to supply the urgent demand for them,

but to sustain a safe and efficient system of practice. Others cannot do your individual duty in contributing your influence to raise up an army of Scientific Medical Reformers. You are unwilling that others should rob you of the pleasure of doing it. You have always acted as pioneers, and we have great confidence in you still. Rally, then, now! and work like men stimulated by a consciousness of acting for the benefit of mankind, and the highest good of your heretofore injured and mutilated race. Let there be a holy competition between individuals at different and distant localities, and let us see who will send us, immediately, and in the future, the most actual fruits of his exertions and influence, for the College and Union Journal.

My friends may rest assured that the full weight of my humble energies shall be hereafter as ardently devoted to the interests of the College and Journal, in my new relations to them, as heretofore.— May I not hope that none of my friends will relax theirs? P.

Proceedings of the Boards of Trustees of "Central Medical" and "Syracuse Medical" Colleges.

At a meeting of the Trustees of Central Medical College, held at Rochester, October 13th, 1852, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Board concur in the arrangements made for the union of "Central Medical College," of Rochester, with the "Syracuse Medical College,"—the united school to be located in Syracuse; and that the Board of Trustees of C. M. College now at Rochester, be dissolved on the consummation of this union.

Resolved, That the retiring Professors, merit the thanks of this Board, for the able and efficient discharge of their duties; and that we wish the Faculty of the United School, a career of usefulness and success.

JAMES H. GREGORY,
President of the Board of Trustees.

ERASTUS DARROW, *Secretary.*

The Board of Trustees of Syracuse Medical College, at a meeting held October 18th, passed the following:

Whereas, the Board of Trustees have been duly informed that the Trustees of Central Medical College, of Rochester, N. Y., have agreed to discontinue their organization, on certain terms specified in a paper signed by members of the Faculties of both Colleges, among which, the following are the principal:

1st. That we appoint Profs. Reuben and Dolley, of C. M. College, Professors in Syracuse Medical College; and,

2d. That we hold only winter terms of lectures here each year, &c., therefore,

Resolved, That we accept the above proposition, and appoint L. Reuben, M. D., to the Chair of Physiology and Hydro-Therapeutics,

and L. C. Dolley, M. D., to that of Surgical Diseases and Microscopical Anatomy.

A. FAHNESTOCK,
President of the Board of Trustees.

T. L. Reese, *Secretary.*

It will be seen from the foregoing resolutions, that the consolidation of these Schools is made in a manner satisfactory, in its legal aspects, and in good faith on the part of the Boards of Trustees.—From its very unexpected announcement, and the past relations of the two schools, some have almost doubted the reality and genuineness of the movement. However great the obstacles, consisting of strong piques, prejudices and preferences, they have been overcome; and personal feelings have been laid aside for the paramount interests of the cause of Eclecticism at large. Some of the less essential matters relating to the union both of the Schools and Journals, it is unnecessary to lay before the public. A few, such as the future name of the united College, its permanent number of Professors, &c., &c. are yet to be agreed upon.

If caviling and disagreement, the rocks notorious for the splitting of medical faculties, can be avoided hereafter on the part of each of the several Professors of the United School, and a due amount of diligence put forth, this institution will very soon be, not in the least wanting in the confidence and support of the intelligent public. It is hoped, for the interest of reform, that disunion and rival College interests, so far as detrimental, are at an end in our state. L. C. D.

Notices of Books.

Involuntary Seminal Losses: Their Causes, Effects, and Cure.—By M. Edgeworth Lazarus. New York: Fowlers & Wells, publishers, 1852. 12 mo pp. 96. (from D. M. Dewey.)

It is not until a comparatively recent date, that physicians have given anything like due attention to the various morbid conditions of the system, connected with, and arising from seminal losses. Few subjects connected with medical science, seem more important, and when well studied, will afford to the practitioner a better understanding of the influence of the mind upon the body, and the body upon the mind, and the means of greater practical good, in his daily toil. It is justly a matter of congratulation, that works upon this subject of late years are becoming sufficiently numerous to constitute an important part of medical literature. Dr. Lazarus, the author of the very interesting little work before us, has done himself credit, in collecting in an Eclectic spirit, many important mites, and adding them to the structure so well commenced by Lallemand and others. He evinces much familiarity with his subject, and great freedom from medical sectarianism.

As expressed in the prefatory remarks: "This is a work of principles, condensing all that is known concerning the disease in question, to the various schools and branches of the medical profession, at least so far as the author's range extends. While avoiding the diffuseness and repetition consequent on the citation of numerous cases, it aims to present before the mind, in a brief and graphic manner, the various changes and combinations with which the physician must be familiar on assuming the responsibility of treatment." His remarks upon the psychological results and pathological changes are clear, and to the purpose. Much of the treatment recommended, particularly the mesmeric or psychological measures, as well as a portion of the hydriatic and medicinal, are not embodied in any other treatise, and will be found entirely new to a large proportion of the profession. The work deserves a liberal patronage.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND MENTAL MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN—For the use of Families and Teachers. By M. M. Rodgers, M. D., author of "Farmers's Agricultural Chemistry," illustrated by engravings. Rochester, N. Y.: Published by Erastus Darrow, 1849. 16 mo. pp. 144. (from the author.)

This little work contains condensed chapters upon the anatomy, physiology, and diseases of the human system, particularly those peculiar to early life; also, upon diet suited both to health and sickness; and some very appropriate remarks upon the moral training of children. It is a well printed and handy little volume for families, and will serve among such, to diffuse practical information upon subjects vital to their physical welfare.

THE PHYSICIAN'S VISITING LIST, DIARY AND LIST OF ENGAGEMENTS, FOR 1853.—Philadelphia: Lindsay and Blakiston.

This is arranged especially for the wants of the practitioner of medicine; and for a pocket memoranda, it surpasses all others of its kind. The blank pages of the visiting list, are so ruled and headed, with the month, date, and day of the week, that by means of simple dots, or strokes, a complete record of all professional calls, and the character of them, is kept with system and the least possible trouble. Added to these are blank leaves, headed "Memoranda," for each month of the year; "Addresses of Patients and others;" "Bills and Accounts asked for;" "Memoranda of Wants;" "Obstetric Engagements," ruled to specify the time of expected confinement, date of attendance, &c.; "Vaccine Engagements;" "List of things Lent," &c. Besides these, there will be found included, an Almanac for 1853; a Table of proportionate doses for different ages; a list of poisons and their antidotes, and a summary of the proceedings of the last meeting of the Am. Medical Association. No physician can fail to see its ingenuity and utility, and no one should practice without a copy of this desideratum in his pocket. Sold by Darrow.

L. O. D.

Monthly Medical Abstract

Ague Treated by a Terebinthinate Liniment along the Spine.—M. Aran mentions in the *Bulletin de Therapeutique*, that he has succeeded in staying ague fits by the use of the following liniment: Essen-

tial oil of Turpentine, three ounces and a half; Chloroform, about one drachm. The patient was a young man, with whom quinine had failed, and the above liniment was used about two hours before the fit. The latter appeared at the usual hour, but was somewhat shorter than the preceding; the second was kept off for four hours; the third failed to appear altogether, and the patient was soon quite well, experiencing only for a few days a certain amount of discomfort at the accustomed hour of the fits. The liniment had several years ago been introduced by M. Bellencontre; laudanum being, however, used instead of the chloroform employed by M. Aran.—*London Lancet.*

Well Paid.—Priessnitz is said to have accumulated *four hundred and eighty thousand dollars* in his short career, by the water-cure practice.

Liberality Worthy of Imitation.—For recent improvements in one of the London Hospitals, eight gentlemen donated $2500 each.

A Rare Case.—Dr. Taylor of Philadelphia, reports through a recent number of the "Medical Examiner," the case of a mulatto girl, who, at the age of thirteen years and a half, was delivered of an illegitimate child, having never previously menstruated; and for one year subsequently, until the date of the article, neither the menses or any vicarious discharge had appeared, her health remaining perfect during the whole time.

Brazil.—It is said that physicians in Brazil enjoy extraordinary privileges, and excellent remuneration for their services. Druggists are fined heavily for prescribing medicines for any disease.

New Method of Operating for Ovarian Dropsy.—Dr. Brown's operation, as presented to the Medical Society of London, "consists in excising a portion of the cyst, returning the remaining portion into the peritoneal cavity; and enclosing the wound by sutures, thus allowing any fresh fluid secreted by the remaining portion of the cyst to escape in the cavity of the abdomen, there to be taken up by absorption, and discharged by the kidneys. Mr. Brown said this method of treatment was suggested to his mind by reflecting upon the numerous cases on record, in which a spontaneous cure has occurred by an accidental rupture of the cyst, followed by a copious discharge of urine." He confirms his views by relating several successful cases. It is evident that the treatment will answer in only a small proportion of cases.

Compensation for Medical Services in Philadelphia.—The Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Journal says, that "the average fee in that city for medical attendance *paid*, does not exceed *twenty-five cents* a visit," This is attributed to the crowded state of the profession, and to the *mock charity* inculcated by many of the public teachers.

A New Medical Journal is about being issued in New York to be called the Anti-Mercurial.

Tooth-Ache.—Dr. Harris states that the oil of summer savory instantly and permanently cures the tooth-ache. To be introduced on cotton and wool, equal parts.—*Bost. D. J. Med.* L. C. D.

MISCELLANY.

CHLOROFORM AND ELOQUENCE.—A legal gentleman in Baltimore, under the influence of Chloroform, and after he had undergone a severe surgical operation, made two eloquent speeches,—one an eulogy of woman,—and repeated two or three pages of poetry from Young's Night Thoughts, commencing,

"Tired Nature's sweet restorer, *balmy sleep*, &c."

So says the Baltimore Sun. The facts, if such, are very interesting in a physiological and neurological point of view.

A LUXURY.—Charles Lamb very properly characterized *tobacco* in the following couplet:

"Stinkingest of the stinking kind,
Filth of the mouth, and fog of the mind."

SPECIAL ÆTIOLOGY.—It is said the exciting cause of the death of the Duke of Wellington, was an over-indulgence in venison steak. He died of Apoplexy, at the age of eighty three.

"NO PLANT, so much as man, needs the light and the air." And we may add, no plant, however worthless, but gets more of those health-giving agents, than man!

SNAKE-HUMANITY.—There is reported to be now living in Lawrence Dist., S. C., a man named R. A. Copeland, "whose right arm, and hand, and right leg exhibit, in every movement, the nature and motion of a snake. The right arm is small, its sensibility dull, and its motions wholly involuntary. These occur particularly on the occasion of any sudden fright. The right side of the face, especially the eye and teeth are said to look snakish. Mr. C. is now 46 years old, and has been as now from birth." This is said to be another instance of the effect of maternal impressions.

PEPSIN.—THIRD INSTALLMENT.—Dr. Houghton has evidently assumed that in all cases of Dyspepsia there is a lack of Pepsin in the stomach, and that this lack is either the cause of the disease, or the disease itself. Let us see.

The constituents of the gastric juice are various, the most important being the gastric acids, and Pepsin. Now we have no means of judging in any case of Dyspepsia, which of these important agents is wanting, or even whether one or both may not be excessive. No investigations, whatever, have yet settled the question which of them, —the Acids or Pepsin,—is in fault. In Dyspepsia, we often have the presence of morbid acids in the stomach, as all know. Is it not probable that *the proper acids then are wanting?*

But Pepsin is nothing more, so our best physiologists say, than the Mucus of the stomach in a state of *change*,—undergoing the first stage of decay. How can that be wanting in a diseased stomach? Must there not even be an increase of it present? Again, Dyspepsia is known often to depend on inflammation of the coats, or of the nerves, of the stomach. How is Pepsin to cure such conditions?

And finally, what sort of a philosopher is this Dr. Houghton?—Well! our "universal Yankee nation" contains many shrewd philosophers, who well understand that the people know precious little of the minute matters of Physiology and Disease; and also, that ignorance is always caught by a specious and well-chosen *word*. "Pepsin!"—"Digestive Liquid!"—the poor human stomach that has revolted from long abuse is to have the powers of an "ox" introduced into it! But we have shown that the Dr.'s ostensible philanthropy is based upon the sheerest assumption. His prospects of a fortune from his business are probably better founded.

PROSPECTS of the Winter Session of the College at Syracuse are flattering. A large Class will undoubtedly be in attendance. Several of the Professors and the Demonstrator, are in the city. Others will be in, by the opening of the course. The Lectures will commence promptly on the first day of the term, and occupy the full six hours customary, from the first. Students will lose no time from "introductories," as those will be delivered in the evening, before public audiences. It is for the interest of all, to be in attendance from the first day; but students will be received at any part of the term. The friends of a good Medical College in this State, and one that shall do honor to the cause of Progress, and to the Profession, will find this an auspicious time to lend their aid and encouragement.

"PHYSICAL SCIENCE OF THE HUMAN BODY" will not appear this month, for want of time. The Editor who has that topic under consideration, has been hard squeezed in a "*press of business.*"

THE JOURNAL, which, it will be seen, will supply the subscribers of the "Am. Journal of Medicine" also, for the balance of the year, will be published at Rochester, according to present arrangements, for the balance of the present Volume. The next Volume will issue from Syracuse, N. Y.

THE UNION of the Eclectic Colleges of this State, is, so far as we can learn, looked on by the Reformed Profession, with the highest favor. Harmony and unanimity are indispensable to a great medical movement; and we may hope that so far as the State of New York and those sections bordering on it, are concerned, that result is now secured. R.

DEATH OF THEODORE TREAT, M. D.—This promising member of the Eclectic profession died on the 13th ult. The Janesville Democratic Standard, in speaking of his death, says:

He was attacked with Typhoid fever at his last residence in Johnstown, and so far recovered as to be removed to his brother, Dr. R.

B. Treat's; but venturing out too soon in bad weather, he was taken with a relapse which proved fatal. Thus has been called away by death a most promising and worthy man; but he has left a bright example to the young. Active in his duties, skillful in his profession, upright in his business, an affectionate son, a kind husband and a true friend. Few are so universally lamented. His funeral was numerously attended on the 15th. Four clergymen officiated, and our worthy medical fraternity as pall bearers. "Thus the dust returns to the dust as it was, and the spirit to God who gave it."

INK FOR THE MILLION.—The following formula for making a *very superior* ink is not generally known. The facility of its preparation and its almost incredible cheapness (about two cents a gallon,) render it worthy a place in your Journal.

℞ 12 oz. avoird. Ext. Logwood
¼ oz. " Bichromate Potash
5 gallons water;

Dissolve the ingredients separately in water and mix them together, in a short time the ink will be fit for use.

An analysis of the above would be very desirable.

As an instance of the very great coloring property of hæmatoxylon, I have found that 1-100th of a grain dissolved in 4,000,000 times that quantity of water, will be tinged a fine pink color by the addition of a little aqua ammonia.—*Am. Jour. Phar.*

ROCHESTER HIGHLY FAVORED.—Rochester, no one can deny, abounds in worthy members of the various learned professions. Not only,

"The profession's already so full
Of *lawyers* so full of profession!"

but medicine and divinity have scores of representatives, whose knowledge and worth "was ne'er entailed from sire to son." Unlike many other cities, Rochester has also its "*Professor of Hairdressing and Wig Making!!*" "*Professor of Renovating Old Clothes!!*" "*Professor of Fortune Telling!!*" "*Professor in the Treatment and Cure of Cancers!!*" And one "MEDICAL DOCTOR!!" (as designated by his sign,) who, we understand, is writing a book!!! Of course all these modest gentlemen will be allowed their chances to

"Do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame."

☞ MR. CAREFUL having been told by his physician that he must take gentle exercise, replied, that he had, for some time back, practice dcutting his toe nails twice a week!

DR. HENRY GOADBY, formerly dissector of Minute Anatomy to the Royal College of Surgeons, London, has recently favored the citizens of Rochester with a highly interesting series of lectures upon Microscopic Anatomy. He is probably unsurpassed as a lecturer in this department of Science.

☞ UNION MEDICAL COLLEGE.—This is the name preferred by the members of the United Faculty, for the Medical College in Syracuse. L. C. D.

CHOLERA was appalling in California at the last advices.

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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Physical Science of the Human Body.—A Digression.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 438.

BY LEVI REUBEN, M. D.

It has not been the object of the writer of these articles to fill space, but to convey instruction. He may have seemed to some to be delving too long among the rubbish of chemistry. His object has been to dig down through the loose and unsubstantial soil of common-place facts, and lay the foundation of the Science of Man where Nature has fixed the basis of his bodily organization,—on the sure strata of elementary atoms and elementary truths.

Chemistry and Physics, or Natural Philosophy, are the rocks on which the magnificent structure of Physiology *must* be built, if it is expected to stand.

In commencing these articles I stated my first object to be this: "To show how large a part the simple natural laws which are forever operating on *dead* matter around us, play in producing the complex processes of *living* bodies." May I hope that this subject will not be lost sight of?

But why attempt to show any such thing? My reason has been this: There are two opinions prevalent in our day, and among medical men especially, which are so marked in their character, as to have claimed on my part, much attention and thought. These opinions are:

1. That every thing pertaining to an organized body, and especially to a living human body, is *vital* in its nature,—vital substances, vital powers, vital actions, vital phenomena,—vital everything!

2. That there is in living bodies, and superadded to all their common, as well as even their vital forces, an independent regulating, preservative, and quasi-omniscient principle,—a something, which has been named "Nature," "vital principle," and "*vis medicatrix naturæ!*"

Whatever may be thought of the plausibility of the first named of these opinions, there can be no doubt that its adoption has been essentially and powerfully hostile to advancement in all departments of anthropological science. It has ministered directly to that superficial and ignorant awe which regards human bodies as things too mysterious and sacred to be handled, examined, dissected, analyzed and studied. It would foster a sense of blind credulity and wonder, instead of allowing us to bring to the Laws of Life a Scientific accuracy, and a rational admiration. It would lift above the range of actual knowledge a subject upon which, above all others, we need knowledge correct and complete.

I judge this opinion false, therefore, from a consideration of the fact that its tendencies are ruinous. But, aside from any such proof, I have already shown in these articles, that many of the powers and actions of living bodies *are not vital* in their character; and I confidently expect, before closing the subject, to bring out the startling, perhaps, but under the verdict of science, the unavoidable conclusion *that* VERY FEW, *indeed, of the powers and actions of living bodies are such as to be properly termed* VITAL; while the great majority of them are simply chemical or physical.

But what shall we say of the second opinion,—that of a superadded conservative principle? Why simply this: If such superadded principle exists, and acts *in harmony with* the laws of nature which act elsewhere, then such principle is superfluous, needless, and the Creator would never have established it. For who does not know that the laws of nature are universal and all-embracing; that they regulate all actions, and are too complete to need any such patching or propping as they are supposed to get from a "vital principle?" But if the superadded principle acts *in opposition to* the ordinary laws of nature, then it must thwart, annul and destroy their action, and again the Creator would never have established it. For we know nothing more certainly than this: That all the operations of nature are really in harmony, and that there is no jarring or thwarting of each other's purposes among them. And lastly, if the advocate of a peculiar "vital principle" contends that this is but a part of the laws of nature, or another name for them, then he must be informed that he is wasting faith and words on a *quibble*; and that it will be more profitable not to isolate these few powers any longer under a distinctive name where there is no real difference in the things named, but to place all the laws of nature on a level, and study them all on the same plan, so that, by *impartial* scrutiny of them all, we may more certainly arrive at equal and

exact truth in relation to all the departments of things,—animate, as well as inanimate; human, as well as of beasts or plants.

But more than this; it is easy to explain all the actions of living human bodies, which we can explain at all, upon ordinary chemical, physical and vital principles, and therefore there is no need of a "*vis medicatrix*," indeed, no room for one! There is no need of such a principle to heal injuries; because healing is nothing but *growth* under peculiar circumstances, and can take place always when growth is possible. There is no need of it to resist morbific influences; because the natural powers of the body resist all such influences as long as they can, and when they can hold out no longer, they sink before them. And if there be a "*vis medicatrix*," that we know yields and sinks before morbific influences just as much; and so what is its use, or what does it accomplish in the body? Why, nothing at all. That is evident to the slenderest comprehension.

We must not admit "supernaturals" into our physiology. They were long ago discarded from philosophy, and all know with how great benefit. Their admission serves us good purpose; but it sadly prevents us from investigating, reasoning, or arriving at the truth.

We all know that while a rock keeps its form and integrity against the inroads of the external elements, it is simply *the powers naturally attaching to its atoms*—its affinities, cohesive force, and so on,—that preserve, conserve, protect, or defend it. It needs no superadded powers.

We know equally well that so long as a watch runs perfectly, and exactly indicates the time, it is the operation of the purely natural laws,—in the way of weight, friction, tenacity, elasticity, affinity, and the mathematical relations between the sizes of its wheels, that keep it running, and running correctly to the moment. The watch needs no superadded powers.

By reflection, it seems to me, we may know just as certainly that, so long as a plant continues to add fibre to fibre, or in other words, to grow, and so long as it does this in spite of the destructive affinity of the outside elements for the elements within it, it does this solely by the operation of the natural powers which necessarily reside in all living cells and fibres, namely, their *chemical, physical, and vital powers*. The plant needs no superadded powers.

And equally true is it, that, so long as a human organization continues to retain its life, whether in that comparatively perfect state which we denominate health, or whether it fall into diseased conditions, and resist, nay, outlive them, and regain or even surpass its original healthfulness, it does all this simply and solely through the agency of natural forces,—the chemical, physical, and vital powers which necessarily belong to its fibres, cells, and other living parts. The human body, even, needs no superadded powers. Nature's laws are sufficient for Nature's purposes. And how absurd the idea that the Creator could not frame laws which could, by their own action, secure the ends He had in view, but that when He had infused these LAWS into all nature, He must in certain places, as in human bodies, for instance, place *overseers* or *whippers-in* over them

to keep them at work, or furnish them with some supernatural *aids*, to help them when they tire and flagg! Omniscience does not do its work so bunglingly!

The human body has its share of the influence of the great laws of mechanics,—its share of the agency of weight, friction, hydrostatic pressure, and hydraulic momentum; its share of the operation of light, heat, electricity, and so on, and of the effects of combustion. But, again, its cells, tubes and fibres are known to be posessed of one or more of the properties of electricity, contractility, sensibility, the capacity of responding to irritant agents, and the power of growth. Will any one have the goodness to point out now, a part of this perfect and wonderful organization that its own powers and properties can not take care of? Will any one show us room to wedge into this perfect system, a supernatural "*vis medicatrix naturæ;*" or inform us how such an agent can possibly be introduced without working confusion, instead of good, to the entire economy?

I shall not, certainly, be charged here with combatting a "New School" doctrine, for the notion of a peculiar, superadded, conservative principle, did not originate by any means with Beach or Thomson, as many suppose, but was first broached in a slightly different form by Hippocrates himself, before the Christian era, and has been in some form or other warmly advocated ever since, by a class of medical writers whose capacity for the marvelous exceeds their powers of investigation and reasoning! But so far as its truth or falsity is concerned, it is no matter who originated it, nor who has taught it. We must learn to go for ourselves to the fountain-head. We must interrogate universal Nature, and not *men*, who like ourselves are no more than inquirers and learners, or we never shall arrive at truth.

But, unphilosophical as we have found it to be, this vague notion of an impersonated "nature," or "conservative principle," floats more or less through all medical systems, and finds supporters among the advocates of all. Now if this notion be not correct and well-founded, its adoption can only be accounted for on the score of *ignorance* of the real "laws of nature," and of their real province and operation. The conviction that such is really the foundation of this unfortunate hypothesis, has been one of the incentives which led me to write the articles on "Physical Science, &c.," of which this may form a part. By coming down to the actual elements of living bodies, and the actual forces with which they are endowed, we shall learn to have less faith in the dominion of "supernatural" over "natural" laws; and we shall happily discover, at the same time, that living bodies are so well furnished with inherent and essential powers, as to be in no want of these foreign and superfluous principles, either as guardians or auxiliaries.

I wish it distinctly understood that the convictions I have here expressed, and which seemed to my mind to call for the writing of this series of articles, are my own. No system, and no body of men is responsible for them. But we are all responsible to Humanity

for the views we adopt, and bound by our own interest to arrive as near the absolute truth as we may.

"But," asks one, "to what do we trust for recovery from disease, and to what do we address our remedies, if not to the "vis medicatrix?" Well, those who do address this hidden power, must expect to receive very fickle and uncertain answers. For, a power which is *over* Nature, or any part of Nature, must be *beyond*, *out of*, and *different from*, Nature; and therefore, as no one claims that this power is Deity himself, it is necessarily an unnatural power about which we can know nothing, and from which we can get nothing, because we can certainly never know how to approach it. Talk of directing remedies to the "vis medicatrix naturæ!" We shall do well to learn first what it is, and how it acts.

But if the practitioner of medicine should explain that by this "vis" he means the sum total of the forces, vital or otherwise, in the human body, which so act as to resist the influence of external noxious agencies, or to replace disease by health, there we shall at once agree. There is a set of forces in human bodies, forces depending, for their manifestation on the peculiar organization and conditions of the different tissues, which are thus active in accomplishing good results. To these we look for health, in disease. To these we aim to address our remedies; and if we treat our patient wisely, these forces by their silent action crown our efforts with success. And what is best of all, these forces are things whose operations we can observe, study, and understand.

But then, all will see that, in these forces, there is nothing supernatural. They are the identical "laws of nature" which we meet with elsewhere, with the addition of a few found only in living bodies, because nowhere but in living bodies have we the peculiar conditions present under which they can alone act. This is all very simple. When we give an emetic, a sudorific, or a wet sheet, we *do* address NATURE, indeed, and not *super-Nature!* We appeal to the "Healing Power," it is true; and that is the Living and Growing Power, and "nothing else."

If now, the articles on "Physical Science" shall in any degree help to bring out these important truths of human physiology, if they shall show the foundations on which those truths rest, and commend them to the adoption of medical men, as a part of medical theory, and in the place of the unphilosophical views which have too widely obtained hitherto, the labors of the writer will be well repaid.

In some future articles I shall finish the consideration of the materials which compose the human body, and shall then go on to take the several functions of the system in their order, and show, as near as may be, what parts of each are chemical, what physical, and what vital in their nature. On those subjects there may be more room for originality in the combinations of ideas, if not in the ideas themselves, than has been possible in considering the dry details of the composition of plants and animals.

One thought more. Is the subject above considered a practical one? It is practical in the highest degree. As soon as the notion of an occult "vis medicatrix" is fully discarded from our system of Physiology and Therapeutics, but, not till then, we shall commence in good earnest the task of examining the powers and actions of living bodies, in exactly the same spirit, and in essentially the same manner, as we have so long studied, and with so much success, the phenomena of inanimate nature. And we shall then be in the way to arrive at the same happy results, and among the rest a large increase in certainty of beneficial effects from our labors as physicians, because we shall have discovered the grounds upon which our action is to be based, and more certain rules respecting the means and manner in which to remove disease. How shall we rightly study "Nature" as it is in Man? And how shall we most favorably reach "Nature" there, and give direction to her action? These are the great practical questions for the Physiologist and the Healer.

Leucorrhœa.

BY L. C. DOLLEY, M. D.

Not only are many of the new ideas respecting the pathology of Leucorrhœa, worthy of consideration and confidence; but also in this, more than in most diseases, is the superiority of modern remedial resources specially manifest. The connection and influence of constitutional peculiarities and diseases, in its development and continuance, seem to have been but poorly appreciated by most writers.

Leucorrhœa is too generally considered and treated as purely a local disease, and the strumous habit, leuco-phlegmatic temperament, deficient nervous energy and other constitutional and predisposing causes are entirely over-looked. With such partial views of its nature and causes, it is not surprising that the common means of cure, such as astringent injections of solutions of alum, sulphate of zinc, nitrate of silver, sugar of lead, decoctions of oak bark, &c., have so signally failed; and that the best results under old school treatment have been derived from tonics and alteratives—such as preperations of iron, iodine, general bathing, etc., together with copaiba, cantharides, cubebs, &c. With many thorough applications of nitrate of silver, and various caustics, after the manner of the French school of Uterine Pathology, have been the favorite measures of cure. That these, as well as the great majority of remedies in prevalent use for many years, are both worthless and unscientific in all ordinary cases, I think experience and philosophy have abundantly demonstrated.

Microscopic observations have established the fact, that the structure of the cervix uteri is glandular, and such to a more striking extent, than any of the contiguous parts. The cervix is an open gland, with its lining membrane arranged in rugæ or small folds, among

which are found at least ten thousand mucus follicles. The structure and functions of this portion of the utero-vaginal tract, differs much from both the uterus and vagina, and is without doubt primarily, the principal seat of leucorrhœa. The disease in its early and uncomplicated stages, is no more nor less, than an increased and perhaps preverted action of the glandular portion of the cervix. In a healthy condition of the parts, only sufficient mucus is thrown out by this glandular structure, to serve for lubrication; to defend the cavity of the uterus against external agencies, by partially blocking it up; and to afford a suitable medium for the passage of the spermatozoa. But in leucorrhœa, "instead of the discharge of the plug of mucus at the catamenial period, an incessant discharge is set up. At first the discharge is but an unusual quantity of the elements of the healthy mucus of the cervix. The quantity increases and becomes a serious drain to the constitution, and the glandular cervix becomes in some cases so excitable, that any unusual stimulant, even mental emotions provokes an augmentation."—(*Smith*,) The unhealthy condition of the lining membrane of the vagina and uterus are usually subsequent to, and dependant upon the disease in the cervix, and the diseased appearances of the former are sometimes owing to eruptive disorders such as herpes, eczema, &c.

With such views of its pathology, it must be apparent that the best measures of treatment are such as impart tone to the mucus folicles and the membrane lining the utero-vaginal canal; and most effectually counteract both the local and general enervation. Simple astringents and caustics do not do this, particularly when the disease is within and above the cervix, localities which these applications, as commonly used, but seldom reach. When the disease is within the cevical canal, there have been instances without doubt, in which caustic applied to the os uteri, has benefited by its derivative influence; also temporary benefit has resulted from a suppression of the vaginal discharge by means of astringents; but the practice which relies upon these either alone or combined, is both empirical and uncertain.

A rational course of treatment requires both constitutional medicines and regimen, and local applications. Few who have tested the Macrotis Racemosa, will deny that it surpasses all other known medicines in its influence over this disease, when administered internally. This, prepared in the form of decoction with about equal quantities of the leaves of the Rubus Strigosus, (*red raspberry*,) was formerly with me, as with many others of our school, the principal internal remedy. This at moderate strength, may be administered in wine-glass full doses, once in about four hours through the day, until its specific influence is felt in the head and limbs, and may be continued for many days. Recently, in place of the crude Macrotis, I make use of Macrotin, in half grain doses or more, two or three times a day. The Macrotin may be administered conveniently in pills, combined with various other medicines, according to the accompanying symptoms. If symptoms of anæmia are present, the following will be found valuable :

R. Macrotin, 12 grs.
Ferri Pulv. (*iron by hydrogen*) 2½ scrup.
Gum Arabic or ext. Cypripedium q. s.

Make 24 pills. Let one be taken three times a day, unless the pain in the limbs, resulting from the Macrotin, should be severe.

If much gastric weakness exists, combine the Macrotin with Hydrastin. If a gentle aperient or tonic is required, the Macrotin may be combined as follows:

R. Macrotin, 15 grs.
Leptandrin, 24 "
Hydrastin, 60 "

Make into 30 pills.

I have more frequently given the Mocrotin uncombined, and for an aperient one or two of the Anti-Dyspeptic Pills of the Eclectic Pharmacy. When tonics seemed necessary, the following has been a common and favorite preparation:

R. Trillium Pendulum, (*Beth root*)	1½	ounces.
Ictodes Fœtida, (*Skunk-cabbage*)	1	ounce.
Hydrastus Can. (*Golden Seal*) or Cornus Florida (*box-wood*) bark of root, or flowers,	½	"
Gentian,	½	"
Boiling water,	½	pint.
Malaga Wine,	1	quart.

Dose, half a wine-glass full three times a day. To those of a strumous habit, the Fluid Ext. of Stillingia should be given.

In connection with the above measures, I cannot urge too strenuously some of the hydropathic appliances. The patient should take a bath daily, at the temperature best suited to her reactive forces. The morning, soon after rising, is the best time for this. The dripping sheet at the temperature ranging from 60° to 70° is the most favorable bath, as it can be best borne by ladies enfeebled by leucorrhœa and other chronic diseases. The sitting bath is scarcely less important, and should be taken with water about 65°, at nine or ten o'clock A. M., and at three or four, P. M. At the time of taking these, and in many cases, during the intervals, let cold water be thrown freely into the vagina by means of the common female syringe, or what is decidedly preferable, the large vagina or pump syringe, by means of which ten ounces or more of water may be used at once, in a manner that will impart the most favorable therapeutic effects. These not only cleanse the parts from all acrid secretions, but impart tone and healthy action to the numerous mucus folicles within the cervix uteri, the normal action of which has become deranged. I consider these hydropathic measures a very important part of the treatment, which should seldom, if ever, be dispensed with. Nothing will compare with them for counteracting the various morbid tendencies, and imparting healthy nervous and vascular action to the weakened and irritable parts.

The same course of treatment will be found quite all that is necessary to relieve those cases of leucorrhœa complicated with prolapsus and other displacements, which have become so remarkably frequent

and troublesome of late years. In some instances slight additions or modifications are required, as suitable temporary support for the prolapsed organ, the wet-girdle, &c., &c. With these outlines and general terms, the reader will be able, I hope, without difficulty, to test a course of treatment which I have pursued in scores of cases, with results of the most flattering and satisfactory character; and such as should recommend it to the favorable notice of those whose faith in the curability of leucorrhœa is not yet confirmed.

ROCHESTER, Nov., 1852.

Clothing.

As winter is near upon us, it is but proper that measures for the prevention of colds, coughs, bronchial affections, and consumption, should now receive our attention.

In a climate like that of the Northern States, and the Canadas, where it is not probable that the temperature of three successive days will be very nearly similar, too much attention cannot be given to the subject of clothing, by those whose business or necessities expose them much to the open air. Of late years, more attention has been given to this subject than formerly, as may be inferred from the amount of furs worn, and the great variety of out-side garments displayed in our shop windows. Formerly the overcoat was a thin long garment, fitting tightly to the form, giving no especial protection to the system, except in the way of an additional thickness of cloth, with, perhaps a pile of *capes* upon the already over-loaded shoulders; and by its closeness of fit, inducing free perspiration upon the least exertion.

Now, the outside garment is loose and large, protecting the body, chest, and arms,—not too heavy, yet sufficient to preserve the animal heat. This is well, and with proper coverings for the feet, to protect them from the cold and dampness, one can almost bid defiance to the severest winter. India rubber shoes are now worn by nearly all in cold and damp weather; and if they are removed from the feet as soon as the wearer returns to a warm room, they are valuable promoters of health as well as comfort; but too many are either lazy or thoughtless, and continue to wear them in-doors until moisture accumulates about the feet, and they become as it were parboiled and tender,—fit subject for chilblains, at the same time leaving the system extremely susceptible to external influences. The feet should always be kept warm and *dry*, and yet covered as lightly as is possible, and insure these results. Soft woolen socks, or even cotton, are probably the best, as they will allow a free circulation of air next the skin, and, while they retain the natural warmth of the extremities, they allow the perspiration to pass freely away.

There can be no doubt that some light, flexible, and porous substance, for the outer covering of the feet, would be far preferable to leather, especially the *glazed* leather that is now in general use, for those whose feet are not exposed to moisture; but until something

of this nature is discovered, we must content ourselves with having our boots and shoes as large and pliable as the nature of the material, and the demands of fashion will allow.

Many suppose that *flannel* should be worn next the skin. Perhaps it is well for many to wear some soft woolen texture next the surface in cold weather, but there are others whose systems generate so much animal electricity that a non-conducting material is far preferable. There is yet another objection to flannel under-clothes. Stuffs made from wool, more readily absorb and retain animal exhalations, than textures made from vegetable fibres, and therefore require to be more frequently changed and washed. Yes, we have known physicians reccommend flannel under-clothing for their patients, and then let them continue to wear the same garment saturated with the exhalations, for weeks at a time.

In the winter season, when the abundance of clothing prevents the air from contact with the inner garments or the skin, those garments require to be changed much more frequently than in the warmer seasons. In no season of the year, should the same under-clothing be worn night and day, yet the necessity is greater for this change in winter, than in summer, and for the reasons above given.

Strange as it may seem, there are many mothers, possessed of intelligence on most subjects ; who send their girls to school, exposed to all the inclemancies of our northern winters, with their limbs entirely uncovered from the knee upward ; and only protected from the rude blasts, and the driving sleet, by being surrounded by a kind of tent, formed of the skirts of their dress and under-garments ; and when these girls are dying by hundreds, prematurely by consumption, their kind but inconsiderate parents, wonder greatly that girls now-a-days are not able to endure more exposure to the weather.

Formerly, when all the children, whether boys or girls, were subjected to active exercise, sufficient to impell the blood with force to the extremities, this want of covering to their limbs was not so severely felt ; but now, when it is not considered *fashionable* for girls to walk, or in any other way to exercise their limbs except in the ball-room—the power of resistance to external influences possessed by our mothers, is entirely lost.

No female, whatever may be her occupation or age, should ever leave her limbs without a sufficient covering in the form of drawers ; and for winter especially, for those, who, like school-girls, are liable to exposure to the weather, these should be made of sufficiently thick and warm material, to ensure perfect protection from the cold.

As there is so great a diversity of taste and fashion, any directions in regard to clothing, can only be of a *general* character, to be modified as each individual case may require.

The *first* great requisite, is, that all parts of the system shall be fully protected from cold or dampness ; and the *second is*, that no part of the body or limbs shall be so bound or pressed upon by the clothing, as in any degree to impede its action, or to prevent the free circulation of its fluids.

For in-door wear, it were better that the clothing should be so

light that some degree of active exercise shall be necessary to keep warm, as natural warmth, induced by exercise is a stimulant to the system, while artificial warmth, especially if of a high grade, is a direct and active sedative to the physical powers.

C. H. CLEVELAND, M. D.

WATERBURY, VT. NOV. 1852.

Medical Education.

PROF. REUBEN—*My Dear Sir*:—I have, as you know, now spent but two weeks in this city; but, during this short time, I have formed an interesting acquaintance with a considerable number of Eclectic Physicians, and other friends of our practice, resident here and in different sections of the State. I see plainly, that a good amount of professional talent is scattered abroad. Some, it is true, needs a little more cultivation, and a good deal more would injure none of it; but I am happy to believe, that our practitioners generally are not inferior, in attainments, to their Allopathic neighbors, and are far more successful.

I rejoice with you, in the present prospects of the Medical College in this city. Our class, though not so large as we had hoped for, yet certainly embraces some fine specimens of talent, and of talent adapted to the business of the Physician. Few things give me more satisfaction, than to see medical students enthusiastic, as many in this class seem to be, to become thoroughly acquainted with the principles of medical science.

I appreciate the labors of those who have struggled, for a few years past, to get the right kind of a College into flourishing existence in some central location in this State; and I now most cordially lend them my sympathies and aid. At Worcester, Mass., I have toiled hard, for seven years past,—some portion of the time, almost single-handed; but now I am seeing a delightful reward for my self-denying efforts. When you shall revisit that city in the spring of 1853, for the purpose of giving there a course of medical instruction, you will find the advantages afforded by the College to be far more ample, than they were at the time of your graduation, in 1849. The Worcester Medical Institute has now a competent amount of Anatomical and Chemical Apparatus, and an edifice not equalled by any of the Allopathic Colleges in New England; and all this, to a considerable extent,—though, as yet, not wholly—paid for by the munificence of noble-spirited friends.

Why *should* not—why *may* not the same, or even greater success attend the efforts to rear, in this city, a Medical College of the highest order? The men of the "Empire State" are reputed to have the bump of *go-ahead-ativeness* largely developed. Like the immortal Carey, whose motto in a religious enterprise, was, "expect great things,—attempt great things," let the Trustees and Faculty of the College at Syracuse, now put their united energies to the work; and then call on their medical brethren throughout the State to sustain

them. I cannot doubt, that sympathizing spirits will rise up from every quarter; and that a vigorous co-operation will, at once, be manifest. Surely, many who have borne the burden and heat of the day, in resisting, under disadvantageous circumstances, Allopathic and every other form of quackery, will not fail to render such aid as may be in their power, to give, to the present candidates for the profession, facilities for a medical training, far superior to what they themselves have enjoyed.

It is now generally admitted, that the centrality and other advantages of Syracuse, render it the most desirable location for a Medical College of our order, intended to receive a general patronage from the State. I trust, too, that, in the men who are now prominent in carrying forward the enterprise, the friends are ready to repose the confidence necessary to success. From what I have witnessed of the progress of medical truth in New England and its tendency to harmonize conflicting views and interests, and from what I have seen of the manifest tendency towards the same result in this State, I am already of the opinion, that two or three years of sacrificing toil, on the part of those on whom the support of the College now immediately rests, will issue in giving it a character by which it will be commended to the unyielding sympathies of the profession, and may receive a liberal endowment from such as have the pecuniary means of doing much good. Yours, truly,

SYRACUSE, Nov. 15, 1852. CALVIN NEWTON.

Good Indications—Eclecticism in Kentucky.

Dr. D. J. G., of Hopkinsville, Ky., writes as follows:

"Our cause is upward and onward. This section of our State has been very sickly this year. The Cholera, Dysentery and Intermittent Fevers, have prevailed to a considerable extent. Our success in the treatment of Cholera will compare favorably with Cholera statistics at other points. We visited and administered to fifty-nine cases, and of that number lost but two. The Allopathists lost about twenty-five per cent. The Homœopathists about twelve and a half, and our loss was a fraction under four per cent. In Dysentery we have lost no cases as yet, and I have treated near seventy. In this disease the old hunkers loose about one-fifth."

Dr. Wm. W. D. of Paris, Ky., writes:

"Please send me your Eclectic Journal of Medicine; I wish to obtain a correct knowledge of the Eclectic or Reform Practice. I have been educated, and have practiced several years as an Allopath, but have long been convinced of the superiority of your system. I therefore intend to investigate, qualify, and boldly avow myself as an Eclectic Physician as soon as practicable."

A Word from the West.

The following, from a Physician who writes from Hillsdale, Mich., is a good sample of the spirit and tenor of numerous letters sent us from our subscribers in various parts of the country:

"I am very much pleased with the form and character of your Journal, and more particularly by its useful and interesting contents, it being an able and faithful advocate and defence for the dissemination of the true principles of Eclecticism, sending to almost every grade of society the most needful and much wanted information—a right knowledge of ourselves. It is the more interesting to me for this reason: every number comes clothed with more and more of the most valuable part, (in all Medical Journals,) *practical information*, such as is needed at the bed-side of the sick, as well as general reading matter, for which part, almost every Physician has a strong avidity, as well as for its spirit of liberality and progression, arriving at truth, by the induction of facts, constituting, as it does, the basis of a new Medical Philosophy. And I find its principles are making something of an impression on the minds of those who have long looked on the old hunker exclusivism, as their strong hold and only hope of safety, in sickness, creating a feeling of consideration and interest with the liberal and scientific among the medical community of the West.

I have a few cases under medical treatment, that might be of some interest to the readers of your Journal, which I will in a short time give to you for publication, if you deem them worth a place in your valuable Publication. Please tell me whether the Yellow Jessamine is for sale by you, or friend Hadley, and the cost per pound. I am nearly out of this article, and would not do without it by any means; also the cost of the extract of Yaw Weed, and the best means of transportation." Yours, &c., WM. H. M.

Thoracic Diseases.

MESSRS EDITORS:—It may be of some interest to your professional readers particularly, to know that I design to issue, early in May, 1853, a work on Thoracic Diseases, including their Pathology, their Diagnosis, and their Treatment. In order that the physical, as well as the rational and constitutional signs of these diseases may be thoroughly understood, I shall illustrate fully the principles of auscultation, percussion, and their kindred means of detecting pathological conditions.

The work is now in progress, and will shortly go to the press. It is the first of a series which I am about to publish, and will be followed by others on Abdominal, Pelvic, Cervical, Cranial and General Diseases. It will embrace from 500 to 600 pages, will be neatly bound in leather, and will be put at $3 per copy.

The work, in connection, especially with those by which it is to be followed, will supply a want that has long been felt to exist, among

Eclectic practitioners; and already, I am happy to say, have several hundred copies been ordered.

Physicians, in this State, desirous of obtaining it, shall have it sent to them, by mail or express, free of expense, as soon as issued, on condition of their forwarding to me, by mail, at Worcester, Mass., the money, according to the number of copies wanted, on or before the first of March next. Two considerations induce me to make this offer. The outlay, even of any edition, must necessarily be considerable; and, by the amount of encouragement given, I shall decide what number of copies to issue.

SYRACUSE, Nov. 18, 1852. CALVIN NEWTON.

SELECTIONS.

Placenta Prævia. (Presentation of the Placenta.)

BY GEO. BENNETT, ESQ., M. R. C. S., Eng.

During the practice of my profession in Sydney New South Wales, since 1836, and having during that period an extensive midwifery practice, I have only met with five cases of placenta prævia; in the whole of these cases I invariably detached the placenta previous to the delivery of the child, considering it conduced to the safety of the mother by removing the more urgent and dangerous symptoms. In the whole of the cases, the patient recovered without any unpleasant symptom; but the children were still-born, excepting in the last case, the subject of this communication. In the whole of the cases, the presentation was natural.

The objection made by my medical colleagues was, that by such a mode of proceeding, it afforded no chance of saving the life of the child; but the great facility it afforded of arresting the more urgent symptoms, and placing the mother in comparative safety, overruled, in my opinion, the objection; for those members of the profession who have witnessed the alarming state of the patient when called to a case of this description, will recollect that the first thought which arises in their mind is, by what immediate remedy can the life of the mother be saved? and of course by arresting the hæmorrhage as rapidly as posible, the latter object is attained. The case I now bring before the profession proves, however, that by adopting the primary detachment of the placenta, and effecting an immediate and rapid delivery, the life of the child may also be preserved; for in this case I consider, the child being small and the delivery effected with unusual facility and rapidity, the preservation of the life of the infant may be attributed to that circumstance.

On the 20th of May, 1851, about nine A. M., my immediate attendance was requested in an urgent case, in consultation with Dr. M'Vitie,

the messenger stating that his wife was dying from flooding; but no labor had yet come on. On my arrival, I found the patient (Mrs. B., aged twenty-seven,) lying pale and cold, the pulse weak, and scarcely perceptible, but perfectly sensible; the uterine contractions were very feeble. For the last week it appears she had been subject to occasional floodings, but not to such an extent as to occasion any alarm, until this morning, when with slight uterine pains, the hemorrhage became so profuse as to alarm the patient and her friends, and induce them to send for their medical attendant. On his arrival, seeing the urgency of the case, he requested me to be called in consultation, and I was immediately sent for. On examination, I found the vagina full of coagula of blood, and could just feel the edge of the os uteri a little open, but soft and dilatable; and I thought I felt something like the placental mass near the edge of the os uteri, but it was too high to enable me to determine positively. Considering the case, from the symptoms, to be a case of placenta prævia, and at all events the state of the patient requiring immediate delivery, we explained to the woman and her friends the urgent nature of the case, and the necessity of immediate delivery to save her life. Their consent was readily obtained; and after administering stimulants, I proceeded to deliver her immediately. On passing the hand up the vagina, and reaching the os uteri, I found the placental mass lying over it, and firmly attached over the inner portion of the left side, occupying half the portion of the os uteri. I proceeded to detach the placenta, which being completed, and the os uteri being perfectly dilatable, as I expected from the previous hemorrhage, I ruptured the membranes, found the presentation natural, grasped the legs, and brought them both into the vagina, and assisted also by slight uterine efforts, the child was soon, expelled. Observing signs of vitality in the infant by a few convulsive gasps, I placed it, still attached to the placental mass, into warm water, and proeeeded to resuscitate it by the usual means, and succeeded, after the interval of a few minutes, it making in cry vigorously. The mother during the day remaining week and exhausted, but by the administration of quinine and ammonia, aided by light nourishment at intervals, on the following day I had the gratification of seeing her cheerful and stronger, with her living infant in her arms. She gradually recovered her strength, and by the termination of her month was in excellent health and strength, and nurses her infant well. The child proved strong and healthy, and remains so to this day. The child was a female, and the mother had previously had two children.

Sydney, Feb. 18, 1852.

On my relating this case, a few days since, to my friend William Bland, Esq., one of our oldest and ablest practitioners in the colony, he furnished me with the following result of his experience, which I considered of sufficient importance to request him to convey in his own words, in consequence of which he sent me the following letter:

SYDNEY, Feb. 18, 1852.

My Dear Bennett,—In cases of placenta prævia my practice, for upwards of twenty-five years, has been as follows:—Without the

least violence, but, at the same time, with the least possible delay, (that is, as soon as the dilation or dilatability of the os uteri would permit,) to separate and extract the placenta—a handbasin of warm water about 98 deg., having in the meantime been prepared immediately to receive it. By the first part of this measure the safety of the mother was secured; by the latter part of it the child. The following were, with me, the grounds of the above prompt and decisive interference:—1st. The imminent danger of the case, which, if anything could be done, brooked no delay. 2nd. The conviction that the complete, early, and rapid, though cautious and gentle, separation of the placenta from the uterus, was the readiest and most certain means of allowing the placental vessels of the uterus to contract, and of thus at once arresting the hemorrhage, while, in furtherance of the same object, by the extraction of the bulky mass of the placenta, with the consequent complete evacuation of the waters, the utmost attainable contraction of the uterus itself could as promptly as possible be ensured; while, again, by the immediate immersion of the placenta on its extraction in the tepid bath prepared for it, the circulation between the fœtal portion of the placenta and the fœtus would be promoted and ensured during an ample period of time for the completion (whether by art or otherwise, and with or without the aid of medicine as the case might require) of the delivery of a living child.

I will only add, that whether the above theory be correct or not, the result of it in practice has far exceeded my most sanguine expectations.

Believe me, my dear Bennett, yours most sincerely,

[London Lancet.] WILLIAM BLAND.

Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association. Adopted May 1847.

CHAPTER I.

Of the duties of Physicians to their Patients, and of the obligations of Patients to their Physicians.

ARTICLE I.

Duties of Physicians to their Patients.

A physician should not only be ever ready to obey the calls of the sick, but his mind ought also to be imbued with the greatness of his mission, and the responsibility he habitually incurs in its discharge. Those obligations are the more deep and enduring, because there is no tribunal other than his own conscience to adjudge penalties for carelessness or neglect. Physicians should, therefore, minister to the sick with due impressions of the importance of their office; reflecting that the ease, the health and the lives of those committed to their charge, depend on their skill, attention and fidelity. They should study, also, in their deportment, so to unite *tenderness* with *firmness*, and *condescension* with *authority*, as to inspire the minds of their patients with gratitude, respect and confidence.

2. Every case committed to the charge of a physician should be treated with attention, steadiness, and humanity. Reasonable in-

dulgence should be granted to the mental imbecility and caprices of the sick. Secrecy and delicacy, when required by peculiar circumstances, should be strictly observed; and the familiar and confidential intercourse to which physicians are admitted in their professional visits, should be used with discretion, and with the most scrupulous regard to fidelity and honor. The obligation of secrecy extends beyond the period of professional services; none of the privacies of personal and domestic life, no infirmity of disposition or flaw of character observed during professional attendance, should ever be divulged by him except when he is imperatively required to do so. The force and necessity of this obligation are indeed so great, that professional men have, under certain circumstances, been protected in their observance of secrecy by courts of justice.

3. Frequent visits to the sick are in general requisite, since they enable the physician to arrive at a more perfect knowledge of the disease, to meet promptly every change which may occur, and also tend to preserve the confidence of the patient. But unnecessary visits are to be avoided, as they give useless anxiety to the patient, tend to diminish the authority of the physician, and render him liable to be suspected of interested motives.

4. A physician should not be forward to make gloomy prognostications, because they savour of impiricism, by magnifying the importance of his services in the treatment or cure of the disease. But he should not fail, on proper occasions, to give to the friends of the patient timely notice of danger when it really occurs; and even to the patient himself, if absolutely necessary. This office, however, is so peculiarly alarming when exercised by him, that it ought to be declined whenever it can be assigned to any other person of sufficient judgment and delicacy. For, the physician should be the minister of hope and comfort to the sick; that, by such cordials to the drooping spirit, he may smooth the bed of death, revive expiring life, and counteract the depressing influence of those maladies which often disturb the tranquility of the most resigned in their last moments. The life of a sick person can be shortened not only by the acts, but also by the words or the manner of a physician. It is therefore a sacred duty to guard himself carefully in this respect, and to avoid all things which have a tendency to discourage the patient and to depress his spirits.

5. A physician ought not to abandon a patient because the case is deemed incurable; for his attendance may continue to be highly useful to the patient, and comforting to the relatives around him, even in the last period of a fatal malady, by alleviating pain and other symptoms, and by soothing mental anguish. To decline attendance, under such circumstances, would be sacrificing to fanciful delicacy and mistaken liberality, that moral duty, which is independent of, and far superior to all pecuniary consideration.

6. Consultations should be promoted in difficult or protracted cases, as they give rise to confidence, energy, and more enlarged views in practice.

7. The opportunity which a physician not unfrequently enjoys of promoting and strengthening the good resolutions of his patients, suf-

fering under the consequences of various conduct, ought never to be neglected. His councils, or even remonstrances, will give satisfaction, not offence, if they be proffered with politeness, and evince a genuine love of virtue, accompanied by a sincere interest in the welfare of the person to whom they are addressed.

ARTICLE II.

Obligations of Patients to their Physicians.

The members of the medical profession, upon whom is enjoined the performance of so many important and arduous duties towards the community, and who are required to make so many sacrifices of comfort, ease, and health, for the welfare of those who avail themselves of their services, certainly have a right to expect and require, that their patients should entertain a just sense of the duties which they owe to their medical attendants.

2. The first duty of a patient is, to select as his medical adviser one who has received a regular [thorough] professional education. In no trade or occupation, do mankind rely on the skill of an untaught artist; and in medicine, confessedly the most difficult and intricate of the sciences, the world ought not to suppose that knowledge is intuitive.

3. Patients should prefer a physician whose habits of life are regular, and who is not devoted to company, pleasure, or to any pursuit incompatable with his professional obligations. A patient, should also, confide the care of himself and family, as much as possible, to one physician, for a medical man who has become acquainted with the peculiarities of constitution, habits and predispositions, of those he attends, is more likely to be successful in his treatment, than one who does not possess that knowledge.

A patient who has thus selected his physician, should always apply for advice in what may appear to him trivial cases, for the most fatal results often supervene on the slightest accidents. It is of still more importance that he should apply for assistance in the forming stage of violent diseases: it is to a neglect of this precept that medicine owes much of the uncertainty and imperfection with which it has been reproached.

4. Patients should faithfully and unreservedly communicate to their physician the supposed cause of their disease. This is the more important, as many diseases of a mental origin simulate those depending on external causes, and yet are only to be cured by ministering to the mind diseased. A patient should never be afraid of thus making his physician his friend and adviser; he should always bear in mind that a medical man is under the strongest obligations of secrecy. Even the female sex should never allow feelings of shame or delicacy to prevent their disclosing the seat, symptoms, and causes of complaints peculiar to them. However commendable a modest reserve may be in the common occurrences of life, its strict observance in medicine is often attended with the most serious consequences, and a patient may sink under a painful and loathsome disease, which might have been readily prevented had timely intimation been given to the physician.

5. A patient should never weary his physician with a tedious detail of events or matters not appertaining to his disease. Even as relates to his actual symptoms, he will convey much more real information by giving clear answers to interrogatories, than by the most minute account of his own framing. Neither should he obtrude upon his physician the details of his business nor the history of his family concerns.

6. The obedience of a patient to the prescriptions of a physician should be prompt and implicit. He should never permit his own crude opinions as to their fitness, to influence their attention to them. A failure in one particular may render an otherwise judicious treatment dangerous, and even fatal. This remark is equally applicable to diet, drink, and exercise. As patients become convalescent, they are very apt to suppose that the rules prescribed for them may be disregarded and the consequence, but too often, is a relapse. Patients should never allow themselves to be persuaded to take any medicine whatever, that may be recommended to them by the self-constituted doctor and doctresses, who are so frequently met with, and who pretend to possess infallible remedies for the cure of every disease. However simple some of their prescriptions may appear to be, it often happens that they are productive of much mischief, and in all cases they are injurious, by contravening the plan of treatment adopted by the physician.

8. A patient should, if possible, avoid even the *friendly visits of a physician* who is not attending him—and when he does receive them, he should never converse on the subject of his disease, as an observation may be made, without any intention of interference, which may destroy his confidence in the course he is pursuing, and induce him to neglect the directions prescribed to him. A patient should never send for a consulting physician without the express consent of his own medical attendant. It is of great importance that physicians should act in concert; for, although their modes of treatment may be attendod with equal success when employed singly, yet conjointly they are very likely to be productive of disastrous results.

8. When a patient wishes to dismiss his physician, justice and common courtesy require that he should declare his reason for so doing.

9. Patients should always, when practicable, send for their physician in the morning, before his usual hour of going out; for, by being early aware of the visits he has to pay during the day, the physician is able to apportion his time in such a manner as to prevent an interference of engagements. Patients should also avoid calling on their medical adviser unnecessarily during the hours devoted to meals or sleep. They should always be in readiness to receive the visits of their physician, as the detention of a few minutes is often of serious inconvenience to him.

10. A patient should after his recovery, entertain a just and enduring sense of the value of the services rendered him by his physician; for those are of such a character, that no mere pecuniary acknowledgment can repay or cancel them.

[*To be continued.*]

The Effects of Clothing on Cutaneous Exhalation.

BY HAYES KYD, ESQ., M.R.C,S., L.S.A.

The relative effects of woollen and water-proof clothing, with reference to cutaneous exhalation, are well illustrated in the following manner:—

Let a person in bed be covered with sufficient blankets to promote perspiration, and let these be covered by a mackintosh, or other impervious fabric. In the morning, the blankets will be found dry, but the mackintosh will be as damp upon its under surface as if it had been immersed in water.

In this case, the dryness of the blankets proves that the perspirable fluid has not been retained by them ; and conversely it is apparent that, having passed through their medium, it would have escaped into the surrounding air in an insensible or volatile form, but meeting with an impervious texture, it could pass no further, and became therefore, condensed from the form of an insensible and invisible vapor into that of palpable humidity.

If this should occur during sleep, when the powers of the body are passive, the circulation slow, and the secretions retarded, *a fortiori*, it must take place more forcibly and conspicuously when the circulation is roused by active exertion.

I think, therefore, the deduction is inevitable that the habitual use of an impervious covering is injurious. Its effect must be to place the body in a constant vapor bath, in which the insensible or healthy perspiration is constantly becoming condensed into the form of humidity, and being prevented from passing off in its elastic and invisible form, or, as it is commonly expressed, the perspiration is thus constantly checked ; and I have no doubt that this effect would be found to be medically illustrated by the production of herpetic and other papular eruptions, which derive their origin from checked secretion from the surface.

If, however, we are to consider the relative effects of these two classes of clothing under the influence of external moisture, such as a heavy shower of rain, it is quite clear that the conditions will become reversed, and we must regard the subject from another point of view.

In the first place, it is evident that the physical property which renders cloth favorable to the transmission of the perspirable fluid—viz., its porosity—will render it a powerful absorbent of external moisture.

It is true that cloth may be woven so close as to resist the contact of water for a long time, but this very faculty must impair its property of transmitting evaporation from the surface of the body—in fact, its power of resistence to external moisture must be in an inverse ratio to its permeability by the perspirable fluid.

We are, then, to consider two persons subjected to the action of a shower of rain of similar force, during an equal period of time,—the one clothed with an ordinary cloth coat, the other with an im-

pervious covering. The coat of the first, if exposed sufficiently long to such an agency, will have imbibed a very considerable quantity of moisture, perhaps even to saturation; whilst that of the latter will have resisted all external impressions. The result will be, that whilst the one is "wet through," the other will be dry.

It may be said, however, that the wearer of the Mackintosh, although apparently dry, has been subjected to a vapor-bath of his own condensed steam; and that, although his coat is not wet externally, it is damp internally, from this same intercepted and condensed vapor. This would undoubtedly be the state of things under a close-fitting waterproof coat, in which the perspiration is, as it were, hermetically sealed; but it must be borne in mind, that as soon as cloth becomes saturated with moisture, its pores become filled up; therefore it is no longer a porous substance, and therefore no longer permeable by the insensible perspiration; and common experience proves that the effect of an ordinary great-coat, worn during walking exercise, and especially in wet weather, is to create a vast amount of perspiration, which, practically, does not escape through so imperfect a conductor of caloric as cloth. Under these circumstances, condensation must occur—the insensible perspiration being rendered sensible—and with the disadvantage of being in closer contact with the surface of the body.

On the other hand, supposing that the waterproof garment was made, as it usually is, very light in substance, it would not have so great a tendency to promote perspiration by generating artificial heat; and therefore its negative effect would be absolutely to supersede excessive perspiration.

The relative subsequent condition of the two persons, however, will be greatly in favor of the wearer of the impervious garment, who will enjoy a perfect immunity from damp clothing, and will have thus superseded the necessity for the drying process, to which the wearer of the cloth coat must be subjected. This process can only be accomplished by evaporation; and if the coat is still worn, it must be at the expense of a vast amount of animal heat, which will be rendered latent or insensible in the form of aqueous vapor, —this sudden abstraction of vital warmth giving rise to what is commonly called a "cold" or a "chill," and being frequently followed by rheumatic affections; and even when the coat is removed, it is hardly possible that saturation can have gone on to any considerable extent without imparting moisture to the under-clothing.

I think, therefore, it is a fair inference from the conditions stated, that the waterproof covering is preferable in a sanitary point of view. The latter may be so formed as completely to protect the wearer from the access of rain (as regards the upper part of the body,) and yet allow of a free circulation of air around the body,—thus admitting of free evaporation, and so obviating the injurious effects of condensed cutaneous exhalation.—*London Lancet.*

On Growth in Relation to the Diseases in Children.

BY M. BOUCHUT.

1. *Influences of Diseases on the Growth.*—In considering this subject, we must not mistake *apparent* for real increase or arrest of growth. After great fatigue, the height of young people becomes diminished, to be reacquired after repose. A young man of five feet nine inches, after spending a night at a ball, measured only five feet seven inches, but recovered the two inches after twenty-four hours' rest. The conscripts who are only just above the legal height often manage to escape selection by undergoing violent exertion of all kinds on the eve of examination. Nor must we mistake *apparent increase* for real. A child is measured when he falls ill, and then again when he gets up, after a fortnight's illness, and he is found to have gained three centimetres.* Next day, however, these are reduced to one, which is his *actual* increase, the other two being only the *apparent* increase, which Mr. Bouchut attributes to the tumefaction of the intevertebral and inter-articular cartilages, induced by prolonged recumbent posture. The only disease which really *arrests* growth in children is *rickets.* In twenty boys, from one to two years of age, suffering from it, the height was found to be more than six centimetres below the proper mean of the age; and in twelve girls, nearly seven centimetres below it; and in thirteen children between two and three years of age, the mean was found four centimetres below the normal one. By the side of rickets should be placed the influence of diet ill suited to childhood, which, without giving rise to an actual rickety condition of the bones, interferes with the general nutrition, and may impede the growth. On the other hand, there are several diseases which *increase* the growth; and it results from M. Bouchut's observations, that in eclampsia, and in various acute and inflammatory affections, an increase of from one to three centimetres takes place. This is, however, only apparent; for, under the influence of fatigue, games, &c., one or two centimetres of the increase are lost, reducing the real growth to one-third of the apparent.

2. *Influence of Growth as a Cause of Disease.*—Many ill consequences have been attributed by various authors to an excessive rapidity of growth. Such children are thin, and their muscles are flaccid and void of power; their joints are often painful, and their sphincters relaxed. The development of the intellectual faculties is retarded, and the child too long retains a liking for amusements below its age. In some cases, febrile action would seem to be due to this precocious growth. One general circumstance is observable in all cases, viz: a weakness of the muscular system, and especially that of the lower extremities, where it may go on to complete paraplegia. All children grow much during acute diseases; and whoever has observed them during convalescence, must have remarked their weak, uncertain, and tottering steps—very unlike what is ob-

* A Centimetre is about one-third of an inch.—Eds.

served in the adult under similar circumstances. This condition continues for a long period; and the debility which at first is manifested in all parts, persists in the muscles of the lower extremities long after it has disappeared from those of the upper.

In respect to the hygienic and therapeutic treatment, when a child does not grow, we may, in the absence of any special hereditary circumstances, suppose that rickets exists, or is commencing, and should change the regimen and mode of life. We should insist upon the exclusive use of milk diet in its various forms, suppress the use of meat, vegetables, or wine, and send the child to the country.—If the affection is distinctly present, we should resort to salt water baths, and cod-liver oil. When, on the contrary, growth is too rapid, we must diminish the quantity of milk and light diet, and endeavor to habituate the stomach to a strongly animalized regimen. Cold affusions should be daily had recourse to, as should, in summer, cold bathing. Riding and walking are very necessary, and these exercises are the more important, as we know that exertion induces a temporary decrease in the vertebral column. Prolonged exertion while carrying a weight is very useful. These children should sleep on hair mattresses, and only remain in bed long enough to recruit their strength—seven hours usually sufficing for this purpose. General gymnastic exercises are in these cases of great utility, increasing the bulk and tonicity of the muscles, by which they are enabled to resist the extension of the bones they cover.—*L' Union Medicale.*

Cauterization of the Lobe of the Ear, a Cure for Chronic Rheumatism.

It has already been reported through the medical press of this country, that cauterization of the lobe of the ear is an instantaneous cure for sciatica; but we can now go one step farther, for it appears from the following facts, reported by a French physician—M. Henry—that he was induced to try the same means, and to his astonishment with success, for the relief of chronic rheumatism. A man, whose age is not given, had suffered for five years with this disease in his right arm; the pains were deep-seated, and almost insupportable. M. Henry had resorted to all the remedies recommended in such cases, but without success. Says M. H., when I proposed to burn or cauterize a certain spot on his ear, he *laughed* at me. He, however, consented; and great was his astonishment, when, at the end of four days, the pains in the arm entirely ceased! This cure, he proceeds to observe, was reported over the country, and in a few days afterwards Michel Boda of M * * * applied to me, and requested to be treated in the same manner for a rheumatism in the left arm. He was subjected to a similar treatment, and with a success equally prompt and decisive. With these facts before us, continues M. H., I ask how are these cures effected? Here he proceeds to trace the course of the great sympathetic nerve, which arises from the superior cervical ganglion, he remarks, behind the ear, and after having traversed the thoracic and abdominal cavities, then becomes confounded with the sacral pair, whence proceed the nerves of the inferior extremities.—*N. O. Med. Jour.*

On the Reciprocal Influence of Acute Diseases and Menstruation.

BY M. HERARD.

M. Herard terminates a recent memoir with the following conclusions :—1. All acute diseases exert a pretty similar effect on menstruation. 2. This influence varies accordingly as the disease becomes developed during a menstrual epoch, or during an interval. 3. In the first of these cases the menses are usually suppressed completely or incompletely, when they may reappear after some hours or days, though usually in diminished quantity. The patients regard the suppression as being the cause of the febrile disease, although the contrary is the fact, and even in the case of acute febrile disease becoming manifested after suppression, we must regard it as a consequence of the chill that has produced this. 4. When an acute febrile disease is developed in the interval, if the next epoch is near at hand, so that the fever continues to it, the menstruation is favored by the increased hemorrhagic congestion of the uterus and ovaries. 5. The menses are usually absent or notably diminished in quantity, at the periods which occur during the decline of a disease, or in convalescence. This seeondary amenorrhœa, though sometimes persistent, usually only continues for from one to three months. 6. The menstrual eruption in nowise predisposes to disease. 7. Menstruation exerts no appreciable influence on the issue of acute febrile affections. The progress and terminations of these are the same, whether the discharge appears or not, whether it is increased or diminished in quantity, is earlier or later in appearance, or whether this takes place at the beginning or end of the affection. 8. In treating acute febrile affections, it is the condition of the disease that must engage our attention ; for it is rare that any special therapeutical indication is derivable from the state of the menses ; and we must act absolutely in the same way if the menses are on the point of appearing, or are expected, as if they were not so. 9. Bloodletting does not, in general, prevent their appearance or continuance. 10. The sudden suppression of the menses by the development of an acute febrile disease, or amenorrhœa consecutive to such disease, does not, in general, call for any special treatment.—*L' Union Medicale.*—*Southern Med. and Surg. Journal.*

Acetic Acid as an application to Primary Venereal Chancres.

Some French Surgeons, and among the number MM. Ricord and Henrotay, speak in high terms of the virtues of acetic acid as a local application to venereal ulcers in the primary stage. The former of these believes that acetic acid neutralizes the venereal poison, and thus obviates all danger of secondary or constitutional symptoms. It may be applied as any other caustic, and repeated as frequently as the condition of the chancres may require. Under its application the ulcer speedily assumes a healthy aspect and promptly cicatrizes.—*N. O. Med. Jour.*

Professional Aphorisms.

The talented editor of *L' Union Medicale*, M. Latour, lately gave a few extremely opposite and amusing professional aphorisms in one of his clever *feuilletons*. We shall just extract a few :—

1. Life is short, the making of a practice difficult, and professional brotherhood deceptive. 2. A man's practice may be compared to a field on which *tact* acts as manure. 3. A medical practice may be likened to a flannel waistcoat—neither can be left one moment without risk. 4. The practitioner who is often absent runs the same danger as a lover, for both may find themselves supplanted on their return. 5. Take great care of your first patients, ye beginners! for these are the seed from which your practice is to spring. 6. When a medical man wants to get rid of a troublesome patient, he need but send in his bill. 7. The practitioner who expects his reward from the gratitude of his patients, may be likened to the conntryman who waited, in order to cross the river, until the waters had done flowing. 8. To ask an exorbitant fee always redounds to the disgrace of the profession. A wealthy patient, who was asked an enormous sum by a surgeon, after an operation, answered, "You ought to have said at first, 'Your money or your life.'" 9. When the blind credulity of the public in medical matters is considered, one does not wonder that there are so many quacks and imposters, but, on the contrary, that there are still so many upright medical men. 10. Consultations are either very useful or dangerous, just as the usual medical attendant knows how to manage. It is foolish to have recourse to them too often, but still more foolish to reject them altogether. Don't wait until the friends of the patient ask for a consultation; but don't talk of a consultation, if you think that the issue will be favorable. 11. It is not an easy task to come out of a consultation without being a little lowered in the estimation of the patient and his friends,—the more so as there are physicians and surgeons who, with the utmost urbanity, throw out perfidiously concealed hints, which the practitioner should immediately take up, and boldly insist upon a clear statement. 12. A consultation is very often a sort of note-of-hand, drawn by the usual attendant upon the patient, for the benefit of the physician called in to give his opinion.

On the Treatment of Epistaxis. (Bleeding from the Nose.)

BY M. REVEILLE-PARISE.

M. Reveille-Parise observes that it is very desirable to be in the possession of a simple means of arresting epistaxis when severe. Plugging is not the simple operation it has been described; it is very tedious, and often excites vomiting or sneezing, which aggravates the bleeding. Moreover, we may not have any appropriate instrument at hand.

He has found three means of great utility:—1. Alcohol applied upon dossils of charpie, (lint) is a most energenic styptic. It causes a strong or even a temporary painful sensation, and often speedily

checks the bleeding. The essential point is, before passing in the alcohol, to dry the nostril well by blowing the nose, and by charpie. 2. Equal parts of powdered gum and alum may be blown into the nares, and dossils rolled in the mixture then applied,–a magma, which arrests the hæmorrhage, being speedily formed. Before removing the dossils, they require to be well moistened with tepid water when the bleeding has quite ceased.—3. The best of all means is, however, the application of carded cotton-wool; and it is surprising that surgeons have hitherto made so little use of this hæmostatic agent.—After the nostril is well dried, dossils of pure clean cotton should be passed in, until it is filled. They must not be too tightly rolled, or the blood cannot penetrate the interstices,—nor too loosely, or it will do so too easily, and the hæmorrhage will continue.—*Bulletin de Therapeutique.*

[Other correspondents of the same journal speak also of the great utility of closing the alæ nasi with the fingers, either as the sole or adjuvatory treatment; also of the compression of the carotid on the side as that on which the bleeding occurs.]

On the Continuance of Lactation during the Progress of Diseases.

BY DR. ROSER.

Dr. Roser states that the results of his observation during thirty-one years, have quite convinced him, that the routine practice of desiring mothers to discontinue suckling, when they become the subjects of serious disease, is erroneous, the ill-effects of the milk upon the infant having been rediculously exaggerated. He has already called the attention of the profession to this matter, in an essay on typhus, published ten years since, and all subsequent experience has only confirmed him in his views. He objects to the cessation of suckling for any other cause than local inflammation of the breast, the result of which it may prevent, and the cessation of the secretion, which, however, is often due to the neglect in continuing to apply the child: and he cites cases in which the continuance of the child to the breast in apparently hopeless affections, was attended by the best results. He remarks upon the inconsistency in arresting a secretion which is so powerful an agent in abstracting the protien-compound from the blood, while, at the same time, by exciting other excretions, and applying antiphlogistics, we endeavor to diminish the fibrinous and albuminous elements of the fluid. The effect of suppressing pathological secretions in causing or aggravating disease is admitted, and yet we suppress a normal one, which is exerting an important derivative action on existing disease, and has established the habit, on the part of the system, of requiring such a drain. In the various epidemics of typhus witnessed by Dr. Roser, he has found the continuance of suckling, while the milk remains, of great service in the prevention of bronchitis and pneumonia, which are the usual causes of death; and in inflammatory diseases, he recommends the practice even when collapse has occurred. Even

when a woman is suckling much beyond her time, the child should not be taken from her during an attack of inflammation.

Dr. Roser strongly objects to the advice so commonly given to women suffering from, or threatened by, *tubercular disease*, to abstain from suckling. He regards it as one of the best of preservatives, as also a means of prolonging life when cavities are formed; and he states that he is in possession of many cases justifying this opinion. Suckling, too, pursued within normal limits, (which vary in different women, but average nine months), is always advantageous in pure neuroses, including hysteria itself. In the same way is the numerous class of affections benefited, dependent on a stasis of the blood, and marked by chronic inflammatory action, and the generation of adventitious productions.—*Frorep's Tagsberichte.*

Chloride of Sodium (Common Salt) in Intermittent Fever.

Several of our "Exchanges" speak of the efficacy of the chloride of sodium in the cure of intermittent fever; but the most elaborate and carefully prepared paper on this subject is from the pen of Dr. Lattemore, and may be found in a late number of the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences.* In this essay Dr. L. details the method pursued by M. Piorry—his extreme tact in detecting enlargement of the spleen—his success in reducing this organ by the use of chloride of soda. Most of the cases of intermittent fever met with in the Parisian Hospitals are of long standing and imported from Algiers, says Dr. L., and they are always accompanied with enlarged spleens and difficult to cure. "We witnessed," says this writer, "many of the experiments of M. Piorry, and in the great majority of cases the fever yielded to salt quite as readily as to the salts of quinia." M. Piorry's method of administering the chloride of soda is, to give half an ounce in a cup of thin soup during the apyrexia (intermission) and fasting. It generally agrees with the stomach; rarely purges or vomits. Three doses usually suffices to effect a cure.

It seems to be particularly applicable to cases attended with enlargement of the spleen, which is readily diminished in size, after the first dose of the salt is taken into the stomach. From all we can glean on this subject, we are persuaded that the chloride of soda will cause a reduction in the dimensions of the spleen, particularly if the hypertrophy of this organ be the result of exposure to malarial influences. We consume, perhaps, two ounces of salt daily at dinner, and although we have been exposed for years to the so-called malarial influences, yet we have *never* suffered from an attack of intermittent fever! Let the profession investigate this subject and make known the results.—*N. O. Med. Jour.*

Fissures of the Nipple.—With a camel's hair pencil cover the whole extent as well as the edges of the fissures with a layer of thick mucilage of gum accacia, to which is added from one or two grammes of liquid sub-acetate of lead to the ounce of mucilage.—*Northern Lancet.*

On the Influence of the Puerperal State on the Duration of Diseases.

BY M. GENDRIN.

In referring to a case of rheumatism in a pregnant woman, M. Gendrin observed that the efficacy of any treatment adopted would not be complete until some weeks after delivery. It is a rule without exception, that the exaggeration of the vital functions characteristic of the puerperal state, impresses a more tedious character upon the diseases which occur during pregnancy or immediately after delivery. In women who have undergone the most favorable delivery, and in whom the puerperal state has been unattended by any serious symptom, there are observable, at first, pallor and a morbid aspect of the skin, erratic sweats, &c.—health, in fact, as yet ill-established. Under the most favorable circumstances, seven weeks are required before the equilibrium of the functions becomes re-established; and of course a much longer period is necessary if the woman has been ill during pregnancy, or soon after delivery. Whatever treatment we adopt, intercurrent diseases will be prolonged during the duration of this temporary physiological condition. Hence we must not be surprised at their obstinacy, nor seek by violent remedies to obtain a termination that can only be compassed at a certain epoch.—*Rev. Med. Chir.*

On Discharge of Fluid from the Nipple in Innocent Tumors of the Breast.—*By M. Richard.*—M. Richard observes, that while in cancerous tumors, which in their growth induce atrophy of the mammory gland, no discharge from the nipple takes place, innocent tumors, as partial hypertrophy of the gland, or cystic growths, are always attended with more or less discharge or oozing, the fluid being sometimes syrupy or adhesive, and at others bloody. Repeated opportunities of observation have convinced him that this is a valuable diagnostic and prognostic sign.—*Rev. Med. Chir.*

Very Comforting.—The Apothecary:—It is a positive pleasure to be that man's patient; and for me, I would rather die of his remedies than recover by any other body's medicine; for, whatever may be the result, this, at least, is certain—*he* is always *in order*, and if you die under his treatment, your heirs have nothing to reproach you with. All, with him, is *secundem artem.*

Eraste:—What a great consolation for the deceased!

The Apothecary:—Assuredly. It is truly delightful to die in such a regular manner. Moreover, he is not a man to make a long business of his cases. On the contrary, he is expeditious—yes, expeditious. He likes despatch where his patients are concerned; and if we must die, he does his best that it shall not be of a lingering illness.—*M. de Pourceaugnac.*

The number of deaths in Massachusetts in 1850 was 16,606, of whom 3,527 died of consumption, 2 of drinking cold water, 196 were drowned, 1 executed, 3 killed by lightning, and 46 committed suicide.

EDITORIAL.

A Word to Our Kind Patrons.

This number closes the Fourth Volume of the Eclectic Journal of Medicine. We are now happy to say, that the results of our labor, spent during the past year, to disseminate the choicest medical news, and to elevate the character, and improve the practice of Medicine, cheer us much. We have labored diligently to present our readers with practical reading, not to be surpassed in variety and amount, by any similar periodical in the country. We have labored to make ample returns to our subscribers, for the *Dollars*, and the *many good wishes* they have sent us. And how have we succeeded in our endeavors? We would not appear egotistical, but must say, we have the testimony of scores of our readers, those whose good sense and intelligence we dare not question, to the effect, that, the Journal is more profitable than any other of which they can avail themselves; and, that it should have in the future, their hearty support. There has been no lack of commendation. The size, the appearance, and the contents please all whose opinion we have received. For all compliments of the kind, and for the very liberal patronage extended us from almost every quarter of the United States and Canada, we express again our grateful acknowledgments.

It is now fully demonstrated that a Journal of the kind may be sustained at *one dollar a year*. The publication of the fifth volume will be commenced with increased energy and zeal; and our readers may hope for, not only the benefits of increased experience on the part of the Editors, but also, of a variety of encouragments which have never before stimulated them. Our facilities for gleaning a rich harvest of medical observation and truth, are much increased, and we hope to embrace in the coming volume, nearly every thing new which may have a valuable bearing on the profession.

Shall we stop to urge our friends to second our efforts? We trust no lengthy appeal is required. Those who are realy friendly to the interests of the Journal, *will forward their subscriptions without delay*. Those who care little for their own intellectual progress, and the triumph of liberal medicine, should not fail to request the Journal discontinued, after having settled arrearages, if any remain due. Friends let us hear from you forthwith.

After January 1st, let remittances be directed to Dr. Reuben, Syracuse, N. Y. L. C. D.

New York State Societies.

The fact of the existence among us in New York, of two associations, each under the name of "N. Y. State Eclectic Medical Society," is well known to many of our readers. I need not go into a statement of the *causes* that have led to this unusual state of things. The inquiry might be one of some interest, but hardly one of profit.

Evidently, although our State is a large one, and a geographical division might therefore have suggested itself, this has not been the basis of the partition for some time existing! Physicians traveling opposite ways to the Conventions, have met and passed each other, like persons of a community on their way to different churches; and yet their medical faith was *one!*

Nor can we admit that a *true zeal* for the advancement of Medicine, or of reformatory principles, would be likely to create such a division as the past few years have here witnessed.

Neither convenience nor a healthy zeal having been the cause of separation among us, there must have been other causes; and we can hardly conceive of any other motives to such a *divorce* of *confreres* and co-laborers, but that must have been unfortunate, and in a greater or less degree, disastrous in its results.

A fundamental mistake was made among us at the first. State Medical Societies were organized for the *effect they could have* in sustaining particular Medical Colleges. They became a part of the machinery of Colleges,—the *scaffolding* about the edifice, by which alone the builders were expected to carry up their work.

It was forgotten that Medical Colleges,—those, at least, in a living condition, and deserving to live,—are like *living bodies* in nature: their sustaining force, if anywhere, is within themselves. That force consists in the *talent*, *energy*, *and integrity* of a Medical Faculty. And such a force will produce a structure by evolution from within, and needs no scaffolding or artificial propping from without.

The true objects of State Medical Societies are, *first*, a personal acquaintance of the members of a profession, by which may be brought about a concert of action; *secondly*, the elevation of the profession by means of the advantages afforded for interchange of sentiments and knowledge, and especially of recent discoveries; *thirdly*, the advancement of the general interest, by the adoption of suitable rules of conduct, and proper plans for future action. *Let these be the sole objects of Medical Reformers in this State, and we shall hear no more of divisions and dissensions.*

For the present year, however, it seems hardly practicable to

unite the existing State Societies. The time of their respective meetings is close at hand. They may not choose to unite when they assemble. I have not taken up my pen to dictate, even if that were possible. I have dared to state certain views, however, respecting the "made" objects, and the true objects of these highly important medical bodies; and nothing can atone for the impolicy of these thoughts, if they are impolitic, but the earnestness of the convictions they spring from.

The Society which held its last meeting at Rochester, adjourned to meet in that city on the third Wednesday of January, (the 19th,) 1853. The Society which has met in this city, is to reassemble here on the 4th day of the same month.

Now if those Societies choose, they may adopt some one of many plans that might be proposed, to effect a harmonious union and consolidation of strength for the next succeeding annual meeting, and the future. One plan may be suggested, which would probably meet the case as well as any. Let the two Societies at their meeting, appoint each a Committee of three or more, and by a vote empower these committees to confer with each other, and by joint action to fix the time and place of meeting for the next annual, or semi-annual convention, as the case might be. There would probably be little difficulty in completing a satisfactory arrangement.

In disclaiming the idea that a State Society is a mere appendage to a Medical College, I am by no means forgetful that the latter is directly dependent on the approval of the profession for its support and success. But that is altogether another thing; and the needed support may be given more effectually in other ways,—in students, and in "material aid," without both, of which such schools cannot live. I am aware how valuable to any such enterprise, is the hearty approbation and encouragement of physicians. And if the College now in operation in Syracuse, shall deserve and receive the approval of either or both the Societies, we shall rejoice in the fact. But while we shall be interested in the movements of these Societies, and shall labor with them, we hope it may not have to be said again in New York, that they must be harnessed to Colleges or cliques. X.

Transactions of the National E. M. Association, 1852.

The publication of this work, embracing the Proceedings, Reports, &c., of the Association whose name it bears, was ordered by a vote of that body. Relying on the public spirit of the Reformed Profes-

sion, and on the interest these papers would be likely to possess in their estimation, ERASTUS DARROW, an enterprising and worthy Bookseller and Publisher, of Rochester, N. Y., undertook to get out the work, substantially without aid from the Association, and at his own risk.

Mr. Darrow has spared no pains to make the work what it should be. He procured at great expense, paper of a superior quality, and in quantity sufficient for an issue of *one thousand copies.* That number is now printed. He paid an Editor for the labor of superintending the work through the press ; and this was performed with great care. The form in which the book is got up is neat, and indeed, highly tasteful. The Publisher has not failed in his praiseworthy endeavors to make the volume every way creditable to the Reformed Profession, for whose benefit it was brought out.

Many friendly notices of the book have been received. Of these we have room only for the few which follow :

"*The* MOST ABLE DOCUMENT *issued from the Eclectic Press.* It is well printed, &c."—*Water Cure Journal.*

"Some of the Reports we have looked over, and find them of considerable interest. That on the circulation is very full and satisfactory. The Eclectic School of Medicine seems to be growing in popularity."—*Portland Transcript.*

"The Reports have a sound, business-like appearance, are numerous, and not without interest."—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*

"The type, the paper, the press-work and the matter together, combine to make a volume of 170 pages, which *reflects much credit* on the enterprising Publisher, and adds another valuable work to the catalogue of his publications. The reports are well-written, and form a good abstract of the principles of the Eclectic branch of Physicians."—*Rochester American.*

"Its contents clearly prove the scientific character of the Convention. The reporters give us some idea of the improvement which Eclectics have made in the science of medicine, and the marked superiority of this practice over all others. It should be read by all who feel an interest in Medical improvement."—*Boston Domestic Jour. of Med.*

"The Reports evince much talent and research, especially so, that on the circulation of the Blood. Altogether it is a work of much merit ; and it will no doubt be eagerly sought for by all who are interested in the progress of Eclecticism."—*Herald of Health.*

So far, the enterprise proved auspicious. A limited number of copies went off rapidly. But the calls soon ceased ; and even now much the larger share of the issue is still unsold. "Brethren, these things ought not so to be!"

1. *Gratitude* alone should prompt us to sustain a generous publisher. It hardly comports with a due sense of honor towards our friends, to leave the edition as dead property on the hands of one man.

2. *Our principles* demand support, and they deserve propagation. In no way can we with a trifling sum do more service to our cause, than by purchasing and introducing among our friends, this book. Every practitioner should have at least two copies of it,—one to keep in his Library, and one to lend. Many converts may be made, and those of weak faith strengthened by the perusal of a production as creditable to Medical Reform as this. What are physicians thinking of? Do they forget at once all *public spirit*, and all proper views of *their own interests?*

3. *The precedent is bad*, if the first volume of the kind in our school, must prove a failure. Let it not be so. The summer of 1853 should present us with the second of the series,—the second volume of Transactions of our National Association,—but it will be very unlikely to, unless the present volume finds a good sale.

Friends of a radical Reform in Medicine! Let us take hold of this business. Let us redeem our honor, not only among ourselves, but before our Allopathic opponents and the world; for these are observing us, and will estimate us according to the position we assume for ourselves. Our Medical Colleges are backward in giving circulation to the work in hand. They can do very much in aid of it.

The books may be ordered in any quantities from the Publisher, Rochester, N. Y.; H. W. Derby & Co., Cincinnati; Lindsay & Blakiston, Philadelphia; Fowlers & Wells, New York; Ticknor & Co., Boston, and from the Editors of the Journal Syracuse, N. Y. The price is reduced to thirty-seven cents per copy, at which terms we hope none of our friends will consider themselves excusable to remain without a copy. R.

Anatomy and Surgery.

Medical Reformers should cultivate a more intimate acquaintance with the important branches of Anatomy and Surgery. Herein it is that the mass of our profession fail, more than on any other of the collateral branches of Medical Science. This fact is so well understood and generally acknowledged, that it would be idle to try to prove the assertion. The evils arising from this state of things are obviously very numerous. In the practice of medicine, our physicians find no difficulty in gaining the ascendancy over their old school competitors; but when a case of Surgery occurs, where a thorough knowledge of Anatomy is required, how mortifying to let another, and an enemy, bear off the palm. This should not be. The time was, when we had no colleges in the reform ranks, and no facilities

for the elevation of our brethren. The old school institutions would withhold their honors from all suspected of heresy. That day is now past. The march of improvement and the spread of liberal principles have provided every facility, and no one has any kind of excuse for being deficient in any branch indispensable to constitute him a whole medical man, capable of performing every duty connected with his entire medical profession. And if they remain in the back-ground they will remain so only from the lack of a proper feeling of self-respect, and for want of suitable personal exertions and self-sacrifice, such as many of their brethren have already made, and who, in consequence thereof, are now reaping the honors and emolument always consequent upon becoming well qualified for a useful and honorable pursuit.

The Board of Instruction connected with this Medical College, feeling that a large number of practitioners would gladly embrace an opportunity to make themselves more fully acqnainted with Anatomy and Surgery, have so arranged as to have all the lectures on these two important branches, given the last half of the present term. This will afford an excellent opportunity for them to come and spend only two months, and yet enjoy the benefits of a *full* course on just the branches which they need most. Now do *not let* the loss of a little time, and so trifling an expense, cut you off from such important and essential personal improvement, which you feel and frankly acknowledge you need. Let us beseech you, for your own honor, and that of the cause, added to the higher object of a more extended sphere of usefulness, to come forward and embrace the very favorable opportunity here afforded. Many have already agreed to be here at the annual meeting, and spend the balance of the term, and we hope that the number who have already signified their laudable intentions, will be greatly increased. We respectfully ask our friends to write us on the subject, and let us know the day when we may expect their arrival. Nothing will give us greater satisfaction than such welcome news. Come on, and we will aid you as far as it lies in the power of faithful brethren so to do. S. M. R.

The Medical College and Class.

The Course of Lectures now in progress in the Medical College, at Syracuse, is well attended, and judging from the interest manifested by the Class, is fully equal in value to any that have gone before it, in the State. Perhaps we may even say that, in this respect, the

law of *progress* is, as it should be, still manifested. The lecturers who are on the ground seem to devote unsparing pains to make their several courses the most instructive and practical possible; and they have the satisfaction of seeing that their labors are appreciated by the class in attendance. Certainly the *tone* of no previous class has ever been higher than that of the present, professionally, socially, or morally. Its members afford a promise of individual success, and honor to our medical fraternity, in which we are very sure we shall not be largely disappointed.

The Class now numbers thirty members, in full attendance. We had hoped it might be larger, it is true. But there were causes in operation, of a nature wholly extrinsic and foreign to the question of the true merits of the school, which have operated to prevent that result. The union of the Colleges in this State was not accomplished until too late a day. In the change and uncertainty that resulted for the time, many hesitated. Some of these have since joined us, others will do so, and the harmonious operation of the present organization during the coming year, will put all doubts to rest, and centre the interest and support of the State, where it should be, in favor of *union, co-operation, and strength*, as means to the TRIUMPH of our Profession.

The energy that has brought about so much as has been done, WILL NOT be wasted! The labor that has been laid out on a liberal College of Medicine in this State, must not be lost! *Prejudice and opposition* have been doing a fatal work for medical progress in our midst. We have all been *kept back* and *kept down* by this unfortunate spirit, in science, standing,—everything. But prejudice and opposition will cease when honest and earnest zeal for the common advancement, takes the place of partyism and sectionalism. This result, we trust, is now being secured.

If the question of locality is raised, Syracuse is certainly as far to the east in our State, as a Reformed College can be made to succeed. Albany would suffer from the proximity of Worcester; New York, from that of Philadelphia. And neither New York, Albany, nor Utica have, for some time past, presented themselves as centres towards which the interests or influence of Medical Reformers have converged. If the College, however, were removed to the western part of the State, it would fail to accommodate all parts so nearly equally as it now does.

We are not called on to say anything relative to the College as it has been in the past. But it is now, substantially, a new school.

And we ask our friends throughout the State to look over the list of names presented in our Faculty, and say whether there are not men there in whose integrity, ability, zeal and efficiency, they can have confidence. We feel assured there are ; and in this assurance, aided by that industry which creates the success it aims at, we rest our cause. R.

Notices of Books.

MENTAL ALCHEMY. A Treatise on the Mind, Nervous System, Psychology, Magnetism, Mesmerism and Diseases, in Twelve Chapters. By Brown Williams, M. D. New York: Fowlers & Wells, Publishers, 1852. 12 mo., pp. 180. (From D. M. Dewey.)

This is another work upon subjects, which, for a few years past, have afforded full scope for those particularly fond of novelties in mental and spiritual philosophy. Those whose brains "secrete" speculations, upon such subjects as "The Relation of Mind to Matter," "The different Systems, Stratas, and Elements of the Natural and Spiritual World," "The Electro-Reactive Trinity of the Nervous System," "The Positive Electro-Reactive State," "Physical Trinity of the Nervous System," &c., &c., may find the work worth a perusal. The nature of electricity, the spiritual world, and a variety of subjects which we dare scarcely approach, are handled with great familiarity. Perhaps the author's brain is a fit laboratory for the analysis of such; if so, we are sorry to say, ours are not, and we cannot comprehend the force of much of his reasoning. Such alchemistic ravings, we opine, will afford more of the "filthy lucre" to the pockets of the publishers, than of truth to the great system of psychological science, which has fairly begun to unfold itself.

ON TREATMENT OF ULCERS ON THE LEG, WITHOUT CONFINEMENT, with an Inquiry into the best mode of effecting the permanent cure of Varicose Veins, by Henry T Chapman, F. R. C. S., Late Surgeon to the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, &c &c., with notes, selections and additions by R. S. Newton, M. D., Prof. of Surgery in the Eclectic Medical Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio, &c., &c. Cincinnati: 1853; 8 mo., pp. 180. (From the American Editor.)

Though ulcers upon the leg are among the most common, and many times intractable of surgical diseases, but few, if any monographs upon them, possessing merit, have made their appearance. It is well known to those who are familiar with the results of remedial measures peculiar to the Eclectic School, that ulcers upon the leg are prominent among the diseases in which the superiority of such has been abundantly demonstrated. That those departments of the practice which are most advanced, should be the best represented in our literature, is reasonable. And we can now say, that however limited Eclectic Literature is upon the greater share of medical subjects,

practitioners have no longer reason to complain of dearth in the "Old Sore Leg" department of Surgery. This work contains quite all that may be said of the character and pathology of ulcers on the leg, and embraces a course of treatment that will be found preeminently successful. The water dressings constitute the most important part of the local treatment recommended, and are used without the evidence of empiricism which is chargeable to much of the ultra water cure practice. Prof. Newton's notes and additions, though limited, are all in place, and make the work one of interest and profit to every practitioner. We do not hesitate to recommend all of our young readers to purchase it. May be ordered of L. C. Dolley, Rochester. Price $1,50. L. C. D.

Miscellany.

FARMER'S GERMAN OINTMENT, seems to be a very correct *type* of the great class of Nostrums, patented and unpatented; at least so we judge from a couplet occurring on the placards that advertise it, and which runs in this wise,

"It masters poison, conquers pain,
And truely proves the *sufferer's Cain!*

Very likely, indeed. For Cain, we know, *killed his brother* Abel. The only mistake in this elegant doggerel seems to be in the fact that Cain did not kill Abel with the "German Ointment," but is generally supposed to have done the deed by resorting to some mode of "blood-letting."

NEW YORK ECLECTIC SOCIETIES.—The friends of the cause will not forget the times of meeting of these two Societies, at Syracuse on the 4th, and at Rochester on the 19th of January, *proximo*. Both will doubtless be well attended.

ADDRESS OF THE JOURNAL.—The present number is the last to be issued at Rochester. The *Editorial year* begins with January. All letters containing remittances or contributions, or in any way pertaining to the Journal, which will be likely to reach their destination *after December* 31st, should be directed to Dr. L. Reuben, *Syracuse, N. Y.* Letters mailed earlier, go to Rochester, as heretofore. Our EXCHANGES will confer a great favor by directing to Syracuse, after the first of January. We must urge our friends to be particular in these matters, as they may save us much trouble by so doing.

SUBSCRIBE NOW.—The course of the Reformed Medical Journals published in the North and East, has uniformly been onward—from

good to better. There has been no permanent retrograding. These Journals are backed by the proper energy, and they will go forward still. We mean that our Journal for 1853 shall be the best ever issued by Medical Reformers in our country,—if labor, and whatever of taste and judgment we possess, will make it so. We therefore confidently call upon all interested in our cause, to *subscribe now* for the next volume. The first number will be out early. Our friends will bear in mind that whatever changes have been made thus far, they have never been called on to sacrifice money they may have paid on these Journals. Nor have they lost by receiving a poorer to make good the place of a better Journal. The honor of the Publishers is at stake, and will not be forfeited. Subscriptions may be sent in without fear or hesitation. R.

A Reliable Drug Store.—In nothing have physicians generally been so much imposed upon, and so unfortunate, as in purchasing their medicines. The adulteration, spuriousness, and deterioration in quality of medicines often purchased and used by physicians for genuine, make their practice frequently worse than useless. It is quite impossible for the general practitioner, at the time of purchasing, to tell whether various powders are made from seasonably gathered, and well cured roots and barks, or those worm-eaten and decayed; or whether they are adulterated with Indian meal and other cheap and foreign substances, and colored in a most deceptive manner. But few physicians know the shocking and humiliating extent of this kind of imposition, and there is no one whose success and reputation as a physician does not demand of him to escape it if possible.

We, unsolicited, have no hesitation in referring practitioners, throughout Western New York and Canada, who would procure PURE and GENUINE medicines, to the extensive collection at the Eclectic and Pharmaceutical Institute, kept by Hadley & Kellogg, Rochester.— The gentlemanly proprietors and their drugs, are already favorably known throughout our city, and among Eclectic practitioners abroad, and are having, most deservedly, an extensive patronage, from those who do not choose to be deceived, nor to wrong their patients by making their practice but little better than "guess-work." L. C. D.

Communications upon The Effects of Free Medical Education, State Med. Societies, Congestion of the Brain, &c., are crowded from this number. Other articles from talented writers are promised our readers, among which is one upon Onanism, &c. L. C. D.



